

**SOCI 6400    Body & Society                      Spring 2003                      Dr. Marc LaFountain**

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**Hours**                      M 9:30-12, 1:30-3:30; T & R 9:30-11, W 9:30-12 & 5-5:30; other times

**Texts**                      *The Lived Body: Sociological Perspectives, Embodied issues* - Bendelow & Williams 1998  
*The Body and Social Theory* – Shilling 1993

Additional required readings are available in a coursepack that you can purchase at *Ditto's*.

**Abstracts** Prepare 2 500 word abstracts of journal articles, no older than 1995, dealing with the social production of bodies. Attach copy of article to abstract (copies will be returned). These will be discussed in class.

**Class Presentations** Each of you will be asked to make a presentation mid-semester about a topic of your choice. Please have some sort of outline or schematic or “map” to help others follow your presentation. More details in first class meeting. Presentations begin approximately February 19

Your abstracts and the class presentation, ideally, could be related to your course research project, your thesis project or position paper, and/or a conference presentation or article you’re preparing for submission.

**Project** Complete a journal quality research paper. It should be at least 15 pp. (20 pages max), typed, double-spaced, with appropriate bibliography in ASA style. Your project can be on any topic relevant to this course’s subject matter. I encourage you to discuss your topic with me. The first version of your paper due **Friday, April 4**. This version is NOT a rough draft. It should be a final, completed paper – title page, page numbering, bibliography, carefully edited and proofread, etc. that you are sending to a journal for publication review. I will grade the first paper and return it with comments. Rewrite to be submitted on last day of class. The grade on the final paper will be based on how well you address the comments on the first version. The two grades will be averaged to arrive at the final project grade. Unless arrangements are made in advance, papers turned in later than the specified times will suffer a grade loss of 10% per day until received. When you submit the final version, attach the first version so I can see how you dealt with the initial set of comments. Failure to include the first paper with my comments will cost you 10 points off the final average, so please don’t forget. Completed final paper due date of last class, **Wednesday, April 23**

<b>Grading</b>	Abstracts	20 pts (10 pts each)
	Class presentation	20 pts
	Project	70 pts

A = 99-110                      B = 88-98                      C = 77-87                      F = below 87

Attendance is expected for every class. Each unexcused absence will result in loss of 3 points from the final grade average.

### **Course learning outcomes:**

- To learn contemporary literature regarding the sociology of the body in both its disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts
- To explicitly identify, compare, and critique various theoretical and methodological strategies within this literature
- To write a journal quality article
- To articulate the ways in which the interplay of biological materiality and social constructions of the body impact your everyday life experiences and in turn how you contribute to the ways in which bodies and experience are produced in contemporary society

The above course learning outcomes are directly to the following Sociology Masters program learning outcomes: to understand and apply qualitative methodology, to understand and apply sociological theory, to think critically about sociology and issues of social inequality, and to communicate effectively orally and in writing.

We will consider some but not all of the following kinds of bodies: physical and emotional bodies, healthy, ill, disabled, and dying bodies, gendered bodies, slender bodies, media and consuming bodies, childhood and aging bodies, the body and social inequality, desiring, erotic, and pornographic bodies, cyborg and virtual bodies, transgressive and ethical bodies

### **Tentative sequence of topics and readings** (\* = in coursepack)

1. Introduction and overview
2. \**“For a Sociology of the Body: An Analytical Review”* – Frank  
\**“Body and Society: An Introduction”* – Featherstone & Turner
3. Shilling chaps 1-4
4. Shilling chaps 5-9
5. Williams & Bendelow – Introduction, chaps 1-3 + \**“Female Embodiment and Clinical Practice”* – Connolly
6. Williams & Bendelow – chaps 4-5 + \**“Bodily Dys-Order: Desire, Excess, and Transgression of Corporeal Boundaries”* – Williams
7. Williams & Bendelow – chaps 6-7
8. \**“Gender and the Transformation of Intimacy: A `Stalled Revolution`?”* – Williams  
\**“Ethical Bodies”* – Russell
9. Williams & Bendelow – chap 8

## Selective Bibliography

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*The Communicative Body*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1989  
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**Spring 2003**  
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