

Sociology of the Body – SOC 3746-01

CRN #44980

Fall 2019: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 to 3:15 PM
DeBartolo Hall 261

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Fehlbaum

Office Location: DeBartolo Hall 436

Office Phone: 330-941-2716

E-mail: afehlbaum@ysu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM, Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm, and by appointment

Course Website: <http://ysu.blackboard.com>

Catalog Description

This course examines the body and its relationship to the self as a product of complex social arrangements and processes. The body is studied as an object of social control and as the focus of shifting race, gender, and sexual categories. Topics include health, medicine, consumerism, sports, and popular culture. Prerequisite: 3 s.h. in Sociology.

Course Description

In this course, we examine the body and its relationship to the self as a product of complex social arrangements and processes. The body will be addressed not as a pre-social physical fact, but as something interpreted through the lens of culture. We will study: social theory and the history of the body, the body and the self, the body in consumer culture, the body as related to health, aging, and dying, and the body as an object of social control and regulation. Students will learn to use reflection of their own embodied experience and examine one topic related to the body in-depth.

Course Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the body and embodiment through a sociological lens.
- Evaluate controversial issues related to the body and embodiment, carefully considering arguments from multiple perspectives.
- Apply critical thinking skills in analyzing and deconstructing sociological meanings of the body.
- Reflect on their own embodied experience and how it relates to the course.

Course Requirements

Required Texts

Readings for this course consist of assigned chapters from the books *Body Studies* and *Fat-Talk Nation* as well as readings posted to Blackboard. All readings should be completed by the date assigned on the course calendar.

Demello, Margo. 2014. *Body Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415699303

Reich, Jennifer. 2018. *Calling the Shots* New York: NYU Press. ISBN: 9781479874835

Design of the Course

Readings

Completing the assigned readings for each class is crucial to your success in this course. While you will not be questioned on every reading, the in-class discussions are often based on assigned readings. You are also responsible for knowing the readings for the quizzes. Thus, it is to your advantage to keep up with reading assignments.

Lecture Notes

In this class, I use Power Point. Please take notes, as the Power Points are not otherwise available.

Quizzes

There will be 14 quizzes in this class, given approximately every week, generally on Wednesdays. Quizzes are formatted to include a combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Quizzes are worth a total of 20 points each. They will generally cover the reading material assigned since the last quiz, as well as questions from the lecture since the last quiz. Information about what will be covered on each quiz is posted on Blackboard under Assignments.

Your lowest two quiz grades are dropped from final grade calculations. **Make-up assignments will not be given for any reason.** Quizzes will only be given during class time – not before or after. The dropping of the lowest two quiz grades is designed to accommodate people who experience unavoidable emergencies or conflicts during the semester (including, but not limited to: work, religious holidays or celebrations, doctor's appointments, extracurricular events, car breaking down, being in jail, etc.). If your schedule requires that you must frequently miss quiz days, it may be in your best interest to drop this course.

If you have a problem with a quiz question, such as how it was worded or if you think the answers are incorrect or vague, you need to make an appointment or see me during my office hours to discuss it. I will not address quiz questions or answers during the quiz, after class, over email, or in public. Quizzes take the place of exams in this course. That is, you will not have a midterm exam or a final exam in the traditional sense. Quiz answers from the previous week are reviewed on the Tuesday following the quiz; however, your quizzes will not be handed back to you. If you wish to go over your quiz individually, please make an appointment or see me during office hours.

Syllabus Quiz

In addition to the 14 quizzes given during the course, a quiz worth up to ten points will be given. The syllabus quiz grade cannot be dropped. For the quiz, you need to be familiar with the general policies, assignments, and expectations of the course.

Reaction/Reflection Essays and Assignments

Five times throughout the semester, you will be asked to write a “reaction essay” either during class or as homework. You may also be asked to complete an in-class assignment. These assignments will **not** be announced in advance. In total, these will be worth 50 points.

Final Project

Students are required to create a photo album about their own embodied practices for 100 points. The photo album will be a minimum of 20 pages long; a minimum of 10 pages (3000 words) must be text (and not photos). The textual part of the book will discuss issues covered in the course and how they relate to the student’s own body work. The recommended program for the photobooks is Blurb or Shutterfly, as the instructor can be allowed to access these online. Students will be allowed to keep their own hard copies of their photo books. Additional information about photobooks can be found on Blackboard.

Papers

Students will read a scholarly book related to sociology of the body. The paper must be five-to-six *full* pages in length, not including works cited. You may select a book from a selection posted to Blackboard (or have a book approved by me by September 12). You are not writing a book report. Of course, you will have to summarize the book’s findings, but you will also be utilizing analytical and critical thinking skills by making an argument about the book. Whatever argument you make, you must link the book to material from both class and lecture. More details about this assignment can be found on Blackboard.

The due dates for the book reviews are spread across the course. You will sign up in advance to do a book that falls within a certain section of the course using a Doodle Poll. The instructions for each paper assignment are posted under the Papers link on Blackboard. After the Doodle Poll has closed, a file titled “What Paper Did I Sign Up For?” will be posted under the Papers link on Blackboard as well in the event that you forget which assignments you signed up to complete.

Each paper must follow the *Paper Assignment Guidelines* posted under both the Papers link and the Course Basics link in Blackboard. Each paper is worth 100 points. Your paper must be submitted to the proper Safe Assign Folder under Assignments by 11:59 P.M. on the due date.

You do not have to turn in a hard copy of your paper; however, I accept hard copied in addition to – not in lieu of – uploading your assignment to Blackboard. You must upload your paper assignment to Blackboard, regardless of if you turn in a hard copy. I do not accept the hard copy alone.

Although this course is not a writing class, part of the paper grade includes quality of writing and following directions. It is in your best interest to proofread your papers for proper grammar and spelling as well as follow formatting directions. Neglect to follow formatting directions will also result in deduction of points.

Late papers, accompanied by a reasonable written excuse, will be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but points will be deducted for each day late. Weekends do count as late days!

Submitting Papers to the Safe Assign Folder on Blackboard

The reason you must submit your homework and papers to Safe Assign folders on Blackboard is so that a plagiarism check can be run on your paper. If you turn in your assignment early and see that you had a high plagiarism rating in the originality report, you may have the opportunity to see what you did and correct the assignment before it is due. You may contact me to clear your original paper so that you can submit an improved paper. Plagiarism, regardless of intention, is taken seriously.¹

Please make sure you are submitting to the correct assignment file for the paper. **If you have problems submitting to the assignment file, you need to e-mail me and let me know well *before* the assignment is due (e.g., two days, not two minutes).** Assignments should be submitted as .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .odt files. Other file types will not be accepted. You are responsible for converting your document, if necessary, into an acceptable format. **Do not just copy and paste the paper into the text box!** If you use Google Docs, you must save the doc as a PDF or Word Document.²

Please take care to ensure that your paper properly uploaded to Blackboard.³ After you submit your file to the Safe Assign folder, you will see a blue bar stating that your submission was successful.

Extra Credit

You have an opportunity for extra credit in relation to your paper assignment, worth 10 possible points. An opportunity provided for volunteers to speak about the book they reviewed (less than 5 minutes). You may complete this extra credit opportunity only once and presentations will occur on the date the paper is due. Please do not merely read your paper to the class.

One extra credit opportunity involves attending a Women's and Gender Studies event and completing a one-page write-up about your experience. Eligible events will be announced throughout the semester. You may earn up to five points of extra credit. This may only be completed for credit once.

Any additional extra credit opportunities, if available, will be announced.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Youngstown State University's attendance policy reads as follows:

A student is responsible for the content of any course in which he or she is officially enrolled. The establishment of a specific policy concerning class attendance requirements, as well as announced and unannounced examinations, is the responsibility of the individual instructor.

Your attendance in class is expected and encouraged, but aside from the first day of class, I will not take attendance.

¹ See section on Academic Integrity

² How to save a Google Doc as a Word Document: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXc7-GAyYOW>. I suggest saving the file to your Desktop so that you can easily find it to submit to Blackboard.

³ This video shows you how to upload an assignment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cv1KOhABIBE>

Missing more than 60% of classes, only attending class on quiz days, and/or non-submission of coursework may result in a Nonattendance F (NAF).

This course is designed to be interactive. Please come to class prepared to discuss and actively participate. I encourage vibrant and respectful interaction. Discussion should be directed to the entire class. I start instruction promptly and continue to the end of designated class time. If you need to leave early for some reason, please contact me or see me before class begins.

Class Conduct

In this class, we will discuss issues that are highly controversial. We all come from different perspectives on these issues. It is likely that we will disagree with one another. I welcome and encourage lively discussion, as that is necessary for true learning to occur. However, disagreements should not come in the form of personal attack. Mutual respect is required in order to maximize a healthy and fair learning environment. Disagree with each other's ideas and the evidence used in the arguments, but respect each other as people.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that respects the learning environment. Using cellphones (texting) during class is disrespectful of the learning environment and distracting to others.

I show a number of video clips from a variety of sources as part of the course curriculum and to aid your understanding of concepts that are sometimes abstract or hard to understand. If anyone is ever made to feel uncomfortable or feels something is inappropriate, I request that you talk to me about it to see if the issue can be resolved in a way that allows learning to occur on both of our parts.

Use of cellphones or laptops in class requires my prior permission. You may not record my lectures without prior permission. You may not take photos of my slides.

If you draw a dinosaur on the bottom of your syllabus quiz, you will receive two bonus points.

Office Hours

My office hours are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM, Wednesdays from 1 to 4 PM, and by appointment. Students are encouraged to see me during my office hours if they have any questions concerning the reading material, in-class assignments, quizzes, papers, study strategies, etc. If you are unable to meet me during my office hours, but need to be seen, you can e-mail me to make an appointment. My office is located in DeBartolo Hall 436.

Email

I can best be reached by e-mail, but my response may not be immediate. I do not check work-related email after 9:00 p.m. or on weekends. Students are expected to check their e-mail for University announcements or information from instructors, though announcements will typically be posted on Blackboard. It is to your benefit to check your e-mail so that you have the most up-to-date information pertaining to this class. If you use an e-mail address other than your YSU account (in other words, it does not end in "@ysu.edu"), I cannot guarantee that I will receive your e-mail.

Emails that address the professor as Miss, Ms., Mrs., or by first name will not receive a response after an initial warning. Please address me as Dr. Fehlbaum, Professor Fehlbaum, or Prof. Fehlbaum.

Please indicate which course you are in when emailing me for the first time. You also need to always sign your emails at the end (write your name).

Phone

I have a phone in my office; however, I cannot always be relied upon to answer it. The number is x2716. The department phone (x3442) is always answered between 9 am to 5 pm on weekdays and I will be notified if you leave a message for me.

University-Related Policies

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion, or veteran/military status in its programs or activities. Please visit www.ysu.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence, discrimination, and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: Title IX Coordinator (titleix@ysu.edu), Counseling Services (330-941-3737), YSU Police (330-941-3527), and Rape Crisis & Counseling Center (24-hour crisis line: 330-782-3936). More information can be found at <https://ysu.edu/title-ix/>.

Academic Integrity

As outlined in *The Student Code of Conduct*, all forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Youngstown State University. This includes plagiarism, the unauthorized use of tools or notes in taking tests or completing assignments, fabrication of data or information used for an assignment, working with others without permission from the instructor, and more. A student who is believed to have violated the academic integrity policy will meet with the instructor to discuss the allegations. The student may accept responsibility for the violation and any sanctions selected by the instructor, or they have the right to ask for a hearing before a hearing panel. The full Academic Integrity policy can be found in Article III. 1. of *The Student Code of Conduct*, while further information on University procedures for alleged academic integrity violations can be found in Article V.

Students with Disabilities

Youngstown State University prohibits discrimination against people based on disability. If you have a disability, please let me know how I can help to guarantee your equal participation in this course.

In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located 36 West Wood Street, and provide a letter of accommodation to coordinate reasonable accommodations. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372.

Honors Contract Option

Honors students may contract this course for honors credit. Notify me of your interest to discuss options and complete required paperwork. You must submit the project to me by the semester deadline.

Learning Support Programs

YSU is committed to your academic success. As a student, you have access to these learning support programs at no charge:

Center for Student Progress

What: Academic Coaching, Supplemental Instruction, and Tutoring in a variety of courses

When: By appointment. Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, and Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Kilcawley Center West (near Dunkin Donut entrance)

Writing Center

What: Writing consultations for any discipline, Linguistics tutoring, Basic computer literacy

When: Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Friday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, and Sunday 4:00 – 7:00 pm (appointments or walk-ins)

Where: Maag Library, Lower Level, room 171

University Schedule of Operations

Last Day to Add or Change a Grade Option:

Monday, August 26, 2019

Last Day for 100% Refund:

Sunday, September 1, 2019

Last Day for Withdrawing with a Grade of “W”:

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Last Day for Completing with an “I” Grade for Fall 2019:

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Fall Break Period:

Monday, October 14 –

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

No Classes (Veteran’s Day):

Monday, November 11, 2019

Thanksgiving Break:

Wednesday, November 27 –

Friday, November 29, 2019

Course Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation

A breakdown of the points available in this course is shown below:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| Quizzes (14 total, 2 dropped, 20 points each) | 240 |
| Reflective Assignments (5 total, 10 points each) | 50 |
| Book Review Paper | 100 |
| Photobook | 100 |
| | 500 points total |

Grading Scale

| Syllabus Quiz, Reflective Assns | Paper, Photobk | Quizzes | Total Raw Points | Letter Grade |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|--------------|
| 9 - 10 | 90 – 100 | 18-20 | 450 - 500 | A |
| 8 | 80 – 89 | 16-17 | 400 - 449 | B |
| 7 | 70 – 79 | 14-15 | 350 - 399 | C |
| 6 | 60 – 69 | 12-13 | 300 - 349 | D |
| 0 - 5 | 0 – 59 | 0-11 | 0 - 299 | F |

Final Grades

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 450 - 500
- B: 400 - 449
- C: 350 - 399
- D: 300 - 349
- F: 0 - 299

Final grades will be based on points, not percentage. **Final grades are non-negotiable.**

Helpful Hints for Course Success

To aid your success in this course, you can find Study Tips and Helpful Hints for Writing Papers on Blackboard under Study Aids. I realize this is not an English or Writing course; however, good writing is integral to your success in college and I will count off for poor writing, spelling, and grammar. There is a writing center on campus if you struggle in this area. It is also important that you follow directions in regard to margins, spacing, and formatting of your papers.

You may submit a rough draft via email or hard copy one week before a paper assignment is due. I will give you feedback and tell you if you are headed in the right direction.

Course Schedule

The schedule is tentative and may change at the instructor's discretion.

BS = Body Studies

B = Blackboard

CTS = Calling the Shots

For maximum benefit in this course, complete the readings by the assigned date.

I. Body Theory

Tuesday, August 20, 2017 – Introduction to Course

Thursday, August 22, 2017– Theorizing the Body

BS. 1. Introduction: Theorizing the Body

Tuesday, August 27, 2019 – Challenging Body Rules

B: “Why We Fell for Clean Eating,” Bree Wilson

B: “Athleisure, Barre, and Kale: The Tyranny of the Ideal Woman,” Jia Tolentino

Syllabus Quiz

Thursday, Thursday, August 29, 2019 – Body Maintenance, Alteration, and Adornment

BS: “12. Modified Bodies”

B: “How Many Bones Would You Break to Get Laid?” Alice Hines

Quiz 1

Paper Assignment Sign-Up Doodle Poll Closes at 11:59 PM

II. The Body and the Self

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 – Gendering the Body

BS: “7. Gendered Bodies”

B: “How Doctors Treat Women’s Pain Less Seriously,” Joe Fassler

Thursday, September 5, 2019 – Changing Bodies?

B: “The Politics of the Stall: Transgender and Genderqueer Workers Negotiating ‘The Bathroom Question,’” Catherine Connell

B: “The Myth of Testosterone,” Katrina Karkazis and Rebecca M. Jordan-Young

Quiz 2

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 – Sexualizing the Body

BS: “8. Sexualized Bodies”

B: “On Queer Aesthetics and Not Feelings ‘Queer Enough’” Emma Hardy

Thursday, September 12, 2019 – Reproducing Bodies

BS: “4. Reproducing Bodies”

B: “Why Don’t More American Men Get Vasectomies?” Christina Caron

B: “She Gave Birth to Twins Through IVF. But The Babies Weren’t Hers, A Lawsuit Alleges,”
Issac Stanley-Becker

Quiz 3

Final day to propose a book to review

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 – Female Bodies

B: “The Spectre of Excess: Race, Class, and Gender in Women’s Body Hair Narratives,”
Breanne Fahs and Denise A. Delgado

B: “Casualties of Women’s War on Body Hair,” Nadine Ajaka

Thursday, September 19, 2019 – Male Bodies

B: “Fat. Hairy. Sexy: Contesting Standards of Beauty and Sexuality in the Gay Community,”
Nathaniel C. Pyle and Noa Logan Klein

Quiz 4

Paper 1 – Gendered Bodies Book Review Due

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 – Aging Bodies

BS: “3. Aging Bodies”

B: “Startups Flock to Turn Young Blood into an Elixir of Youth,” Megan Molteni

Thursday, September 26, 2019 – Classed Bodies

BS: “9. Classed Bodies”

B: “How Poverty Changes the Brain,” Tara Garcia Mathewson

Quiz 5

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – Racialized Bodies

BS: “6. Racialized and Colonized Bodies”

B: “‘White People Food’ is Creating an Unattainable Picture of Health,” Kristen Aiken

B: “You Cannot Help POC with Fitness and Wellness While Remaining Silent on Racism,”
Chrissy King

Thursday, October 3, 2019 – Racialized Bodies: The Politics of Beauty (CLASS ONLINE)

This class – including the quiz – will be on Blackboard

Quiz 6

Paper 2 – The Body and The Self Book Reviews Due

III. Extraordinary Bodies

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – Buying Bodies

BS: “15. Commodified Bodies”

Thursday, October 10, 2019 – Athletic Bodies

B: “‘Cruisin’ for a Bruisin’’: Women’s Flat Track Roller Derby,” Natalie M. Peluso
B: “Where Women’s Empowerment Means Deadlifting 300 Pounds,” Kate Sinclair
Quiz 7

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Thursday, October 17, 2019 – Beautiful Bodies

BS: “10. Beautiful Bodies”
B: “Why Do We All Have to Be Beautiful?” Megan Nolan
Quiz 8

Tuesday, October 22, 2019 – Sized Bodies

BS: “11. Fat and Thin Bodies”
B: “Living In Between Fat and Thin,” Lauren Bride

IV. “Healthy” Bodies

Thursday, October 24, 2019 – Healthy Bodies

BS: “2. Healthy and Diseased Bodies”
B: “Crafting the Physician-Body in Contemporary Medical Education,” Kelly Underman
B: “Why Do Obese Patients Get Worse Care? Many Doctors Don’t See Past the Fat,” Gina Kolata
Quiz 9

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: Introduction

Thursday, October 31, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: The Public History of Vaccines
Quiz 10
Paper 3 – Extraordinary Body Book Reviews Due

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: Parents as Experts

Thursday, November 7, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: Vaccines as Unnatural Intervention
Quiz 11

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: The Limits of Trust in Big Pharma

Thursday, November 14, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: Who Calls the Shots?
Quiz 12

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 – Calling the Shots

CTS: The Slow Vax Movement

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – *Calling the Shots*

CTS: Finding Natural Solutions

CTS: Vaccine Liberty

Quiz 13

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 – *Calling the Shots*

CTS: Conclusion: What Do We Owe Each Other?

Thursday, November 28, 2019 – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – *Bodies of the Future*

BS: “17. Bodies of the Future”

Thursday, December 5, 2019 – *Our Bodies, Ourselves*

Quiz 14

Paper 4 – Bodies and Health Book Review Due

University Scheduled Final: Thursday, December 12 from 1 to 3 PM

Photo Books DUE (Submit to Blackboard)

**Grade Sheet for Student Records
SOC 3746: Sociology of the Body, Fall 2019**

| ITEM | DATE | SCORE | ITEM | DATE | SCORE | ITEM | DATE | SCORE |
|--------|------|-------|---------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|
| Quiz 1 | | /20 | Quiz 7 | | /20 | Quiz 13 | | /20 |
| Quiz 2 | | /20 | Quiz 8 | | /20 | Quiz 14 | | /20 |
| Quiz 3 | | /20 | Quiz 9 | | /20 | Paper | | /100 |
| Quiz 4 | | /20 | Quiz 10 | | /20 | Reflect 1 | | /10 |
| Quiz 5 | | /20 | Quiz 11 | | /20 | Reflect 2 | | /10 |
| Quiz 6 | | /20 | Quiz 12 | | /20 | Reflect 3 | | /10 |
| | | | | | | Reflect 4 | | /10 |
| | | | | | | Reflect 5 | | /10 |
| | | | | | | Photobook | | /100 |

Two Quiz Scores to be dropped: Quiz # ___ with score of ___ and Quiz # ___ with score of ___

I will try to keep grades posted and updated on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades and to calculate your average. **If you believe there is a recording error on Blackboard, please let me know ASAP in writing (preferably by e-mail).**

When calculating your final grades, do NOT use the raw points totaled on Blackboard and remember to drop your two lowest quiz scores.

Grading Scale

| Syllabus Quiz, Reflective Assns | Paper, Photobk | Quizzes | Total Raw Points | Letter Grade |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|--------------|
| 9 - 10 | 90 – 100 | 18-20 | 450 - 500 | A |
| 8 | 80 – 89 | 16-17 | 400 - 449 | B |
| 7 | 70 – 79 | 14-15 | 350 - 399 | C |
| 6 | 60 – 69 | 12-13 | 300 - 349 | D |
| 0 - 5 | 0 – 59 | 0-11 | 0 - 299 | F |

If you need a grade check that I must sign for an organization or for personal reasons: please print up your Blackboard grade sheet. You need to determine the average.

| Classmate's name | E-mail | Phone |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

It is a good idea to have the names and contact information of other students in your class. If you experience an unavoidable conflict that causes you to miss class, your classmate can help fill you in on what occurred.