



SOCIOLOGY 3212: Sociology of the Body

The focus of this course is the body, not in its biological sense but in its social sense: the body as a social construction. Every society within a given historical period develops specific meanings for the forms, functions, and movements of the body. This course will examine the human body from a number of different perspectives and study the body as a site of social interaction. This course will survey the history of thinking about the body, the body as a reflection of society and theories of corporeal representation. **Note:** *not all topics may be covered.*

Course Logistics

- Instructor: Bill Kirkpatrick, billkirkp@gmail.com (preferred) or b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca. Do NOT use the Nexus email client to email me—I can only keep up with so many inboxes and do not guarantee a response, much less a timely one, to messages sent through Nexus.
- Office: 2RC34 (in the Richardson building, 599 Portage Ave.)
- Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. and Fridays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., or by appointment. The location is always TBD; to see where I will be for office hours on any given day, click here.
- Schedule: The class meets M/W/F, 8:30-9:20 a.m. The first day of class is Jan. 8, 2024 and the last is Apr. 8. The last day to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is March. 15.
- Format: The class will meet in person. A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Learning Goals

By the end of this class, you should:

- grasp some of the ways that human bodies have been understood in the past and be able to identify continuities and ruptures between historical and contemporary conceptions of the body.
- have a solid understanding of a range of influential theories that help us think critically and ethically about the body as a site of social interaction, including questions of power and resistance.
- understand the role of societal structures, meanings, and forms of power in shaping human bodies and what they (can/can't/must/mustn't) do, with special emphasis on questions of labour, disability/able-bodiedness, race, gender, sexuality, body size, and the security of the nation-state.
- be able to apply your understanding of the sociology of the body to current political, cultural, and economic issues and events, especially within Canadian and Manitoban contexts.
- improve your ability to read, comprehend, and apply challenging theoretical texts.
- be able to research, analyze, and evaluate an issue that is both of interest to you and relevant to the themes and concerns discussed in class using appropriate theories and methodologies.

Required Materials (available in the bookstore)

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

Course Format

This course is organized as a discussion-heavy seminar; lecture will be kept to a minimum. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, contribute productively to discussion, and be responsive to the work and contributions of the other students.

Content Advisory

This course will cover controversial topics and will delve into a range of non-normative behaviours; some epithets and language that is offensive by contemporary standards will be referenced in some of the readings. Furthermore, the course will cover difficult themes, such as eating disorders and sexual violence, that may be particularly upsetting to some students. If you have concerns about the content of the readings and discussions in this course, I encourage you to talk with me as soon as possible.

Assignments

Unless a written extension has been granted, late assignments will be penalized ½-grade per day (e.g. B+ to B).

Reading Notes (rolling due dates)	15%	Final Paper (due Apr. 18)	25%
Midterm (due Feb. 26)	25%	Class Engagement	10%
Paper Draft (due Mar. 17)	10%	Weekly Summary	10%
Final Reflection (due Apr. 8)	05%		

Daily Schedule

Readings/screenings should be completed by that day's class, and you should come prepared to discuss them. Please don't work too far ahead: I reserve the right to change readings within a week of the assigned date in order to optimize student learning. Therefore, we may not get to all the topics listed on this course outline. However, exam dates and assignment due dates will not change.

UNIT 1: THEORIES AND HISTORIES OF THE BODY

Jan. 8	The Body and Society	
Jan. 10	The Body in Sociology I	<u>Read:</u> Shilling, " <u>The Body in Sociology</u> ," pp. 2-5 and 12-22 (you may skip "The Body in Classical Sociology")
Jan. 12	Denaturalizing the Body	<u>Read:</u> Laqueur, " <u>New Science, One Flesh</u> ," pp. 63-98 (stop at "The Truth of the One-Sex Model")

UNIT 2: FOUCAULDIAN FOUNDATIONS

Jan. 15	Discipline and Punish I	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, " <u>The Body of the Condemned</u> ," pp. 10-22 (stop at "The reduction in penal severity")
Jan. 17	Discipline and Punish II	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, " <u>The Body of the Condemned</u> ," pp. 22-35
Jan. 19	Discipline and Punish III	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, " <u>Docile Bodies</u> ," pp. 127-147 (stop at "The Organization of Geneses")
Jan. 22	Discipline and Punish IV	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, " <u>Panopticism</u> ," pp. 184-197 (stop at "A whole disciplinary generalization") plus final paragraph on pp. 213-4
Jan. 24	No Class	<u>Turn In:</u> Paper Proposal by 5:00 p.m.
Jan. 26	History of Sexuality I	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 3-13
Jan. 29	History of Sexuality II	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 17-35
Jan. 31	History of Sexuality III	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 36-49 and 81-91
Feb. 2	History of Sexuality IV	<u>Read:</u> Foucault, <i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 135-159
Feb. 5	Consolidation	<u>Read:</u> McWhorter, " <u>Normalization</u> "

UNIT 3: THE BODY AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCE I: SEX AND GENDER

Feb. 7	Sex and Gender I	<u>Read:</u> Bartky, " <u>Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power</u> " <u>Note:</u> Midterm exam handed out, due Feb. 26
Feb. 9	Case Study	<u>Read:</u> Tajrobehkar, " <u>Power and the Body</u> "
Feb. 12	Sex and Gender II	<u>Read:</u> Berlant and Warner, " <u>Sex in Public</u> "

Feb. 14 The Body in Art Meet: Gallery 1C03 (1st floor of Centennial)

Feb. 16 Sex and Gender III Read: Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"

— **READING PERIOD: FEB. 19-23** —

Feb. 26 No Class Turn In: Midterm Exam by 5:00 p.m.

UNIT 4: ISSUES IN EMBODIMENT

Feb. 28 The Body and Phenomenology Watch: "Husserl and the Adventure of Phenomenology"
"Merleau-Ponty, The Phenomenology of Perception"
Read: Engelland, "Flesh"

Mar. 1 No Class

Mar. 4 The Body and Affect Read: Ahmed, "Introduction: Feel Your Way." pp. 1-12
Hsu, "Affect Theory and the New Age of Anxiety"

Mar. 6 The Body and Medicalization Read: Rose, "The Politics of Life Itself," pp. 1-17

Mar. 8 The Body and Indigeneity Read: Tallbear, "Genomic Articulations of Indigeneity,"
pp. 509-523 (you may stop at "New genomic articulations" but the whole article is great)

Mar. 11 Race I Read: Omi & Winant, "Blinded by Sight" (Book Review)

Mar. 13 No Class

Mar. 15 No Class

UNIT 5: THE BODY AND SOCIAL DIFFERENCE II: MARGINALIZED BODIES

Mar. 18 No Class Turn In: Paper draft by 10:00 p.m. on Monday, Mar. 18
Note: We have longer readings for Mar. 20, so please budget your time accordingly

Mar. 20 Race II Read: McWhorter, "Racism, Race, Race War," pp. 28-62
(begin with "Racism Against the Abnormal")

Mar. 22 Introduction to Disability Studies Read: Shakespeare, "The Social Model of Disability"
Tremain, "Foucault, Governmentality, and Critical Disability Theory," pp. 1-12

Mar. 25 CLASS CANCELLED—NETWORK OUTAGE

Mar. 27 Compulsory Able-Bodiedness Read: McRuer, "Compulsory Able-Bodiedness"
Mundy, "A World of Their Own"

Apr. 1 Fat Studies Listen: Overthink, "From Body Positivity to Fat Feminism"
Read: Fraser, "The Inner Corset"
Hetrick and Attig, "Sitting Pretty"
Max Airborne, "Fat Farm Episode 3"

Apr. 3	Body Modification	<u>Read:</u>	Lane, " <u>Understanding Body Modification</u> "
Apr. 5	Bodies and "Dirt"	<u>Read:</u>	Plotnick, "You Must Touch It"
Apr. 8	Review and Summary	<u>Turn In:</u>	Final Reflection by Tuesday, April 9, at 10:00 p.m.

— **Apr. 18: Final paper due to by 5:00 p.m.** —

Weekly Summary Assignment (100 points out of 1000, or 10% of your final mark)

Once during the term, you will be responsible for posting a roughly 600-word *synthesis and reflection* of the previous week's readings, screenings, lectures, and discussion at the latest by 10 p.m. on the Monday *following* your week. [Here is the schedule for this assignment.](#)

Ex. If you are summarizer for the week of Jan. 15, you must write up a roughly 600-word synthesis and reflection on all of the readings/screenings and all of the class sessions that week (i.e., Jan. 15, Jan. 17, and Jan. 19, then upload them to Nexus by 10:00 p.m. on Jan. 22.

Criteria: To do well on this assignment, you must include:

- A thoughtful and thorough synthesis of all readings and class sessions from your week: not a point-by-point summary, but a holistic overview of the main questions, issues, insights, approaches, grounding assumptions, etc. that we encountered that week.
- A reflection on how this week fits into the course a whole and advances our broader understanding of television as a sociological object, making connections to past readings and future topics on the course outline, showing relationships among ideas, and thinking creatively about the content of the "big picture" of the course.

Policies and Expectations

Your Attendance: Attendance is highly encouraged and will greatly enhance your own and others' class experience; it is also a major component of your "class engagement" grade. Furthermore, the in-class exercises (team roles) will not be possible to make up if you are absent.

My Attendance: When it is necessary for me to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via Nexus and email as soon as possible.

Public Health: Students can find answers to updates and frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/index.html>

Participation/Engagement: The main responsibilities of creating a productive and enjoyable class rest with you, and that is why class engagement is part of your final course grade (10%). Your active contributions affect not only what you get out of the course but also what your classmates get out of the course.

Assessment Criteria For Participation: Merely showing up and taking notes is not enough for your success in this class: I'll be looking for evidence of preparedness (e.g. referencing the readings), ability to make connections to other readings/discussions, effort to listen to and build on classmates' comments, and willingness to engage in critical thinking and dialog. You can also demonstrate class engagement in ways other than speaking in class (e.g. sending me your thoughts via email; coming to office hours to talk about ideas; sending me relevant items

of interest; etc.). I am happy to provide periodic feedback during office hours as we progress through the course so that you can make adjustments as necessary.

Preparation: Always have the day's readings ready to consult during class. The course outline will always state clearly what you should read prior to each class, which assignments you should hand in, and what else you must do or bring for a given day. Late assignments will be penalized by a half-grade for each 24 hours of lateness (e.g. from B+ to B). If you know that you will have difficulty completing an assignment on time, let me know before the deadline and I will work with you to the extent possible.

Written Work: Unless otherwise specified, all written work must be typed in twelve-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides, and double-spaced. Your name and the date of completion must be given at the top.

Marks: The calculation of your mark will be based on a 1,000-point scale, and the weight of each assignment is listed above. Final grades shall be approved by the Department Review Committee and may be subject to change. If you are concerned about your mark, please come talk to me as early as possible. I will use the following scale:

A+	90-100%	EXCEPTIONAL. Demonstrated exceptional mastery of course material, together with exceptional skill and/or great originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
A	85-89.9%	EXCELLENT. Demonstrated thorough understanding of course material, together with very high degree of skill and/or considerable originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
A-	80-84.9%	OUTSTANDING. Demonstrated very high level of understanding of course material, together with high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
B+	75-79.9%	VERY GOOD. Demonstrated high level of understanding of course material, together with reasonably high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
B	70-74.9%	GOOD. Demonstrated above-average level of facility with course material, together with reasonable skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
C+	65-69.9%	COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable level of facility with course material, together with fair skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
C	60-64.9%	FAIRLY COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable familiarity with course material, together with adequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
D	50-59.9%	PASSING. Demonstrated minimal grasp of course material, together with minimal skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
F	0-49.9%	FAILING. Demonstrated insufficient knowledge of course material, together with inadequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.

Communication Policy: I will regularly use email and/or Nexus to send out announcements, changes in the schedule, reminders about due dates, etc. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly to keep up-to-date with these announcements. I prefer billkirkp@gmail.com but b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca will work too. Do NOT email me through Nexus: I do not guarantee any response to messages sent via the Nexus email client. Except when I have given you advance notice, or in rare cases of personal or family emergency, I promise to answer all email from students within 24 hours (36 hours on weekends) and will hold you responsible for any announcements made via email within 24 hours of the announced change (36 hours on weekends). Please keep in mind that more involved questions should be asked in office hours, not over email.

Exams: The course has one take-home, essay-style exam.

Absences for Religious Observance: Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify me at least two weeks in advance. A list of university-recognized religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>.

Accessibility and Special Accommodations: I am striving to make the class and my teaching materials as accessible as possible. Access needs will be addressed pre-emptively through the following strategies:

- Captions for in-class videos, and transcripts of audio material, will be provided whenever possible.
- Classes may be recorded with advanced notice to the instructor and the consent of the other students.
- Flexible deadlines are possible with advance notice.
- Participation will be evaluated through a variety of modalities: in-class discussion, contributing to Nexus, drop-in hours, etc.

It is important that the course be accessible to all students. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you need any alternative accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order for you to be able to participate fully in the course, or if there are any external issues that may affect your work in this course, please contact me privately as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty and Non-Academic Misconduct: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the regulations and policies found in the University of Winnipeg's Academic Calendar [here](#). Special attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Detailed information can be found at the following:

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

<https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

I also encourage you to view the University of Winnipeg library video tutorial "[Avoiding Plagiarism.](#)"

Misuse of AI and Filesharing Sites: Unless otherwise explicitly stated, students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT) at any stage of their work in this class, and you may face an allegation of academic misconduct if you use such tools in your assignments.. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is highly problematic, and students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct. I'm happy to have a conversation with you about the ethics of participating on such sites.

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., [Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy](#), [Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy](#)) could be considered "non-academic" misconduct. Detailed information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Privacy: You have rights in relation to the collection of your personal data by the University; [see here](#). There are also protections in place regarding in-class testing, so you should also be aware of policies in that regard.

Copyright: The University requires me to including the following: "Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board." Unfortunately, this UW-provided statement is not an entirely accurate invocation of Canadian copyright law. For example, in claiming that prior permission must *always* be sought, the statement fails to acknowledge "fair dealing" exceptions when no prior permission is required. I wish the University's statement would emphasize fair dealing as strongly as it asserts the supposed extent and sanctity of copyright. In any case, in keeping with the University's mission as an educational institution, I encourage you to freely share my course materials, your class notes, etc. as you see fit.

Holidays: The University is closed for the following holidays: February 19 (Louis Riel Day), March 29 (Good Friday).

My Office

(but note: always check Where Is Bill Today? for where to find me in office hours):

**RICHARDSON BUILDING
599 PORTAGE AVENUE
OFFICE 2RC34**

