**GSWS (WOMNST) 2240-1075 (17637): Gender and the Body**

Professor Jennifer Waldron

Tuesdays 2:30–4:55

CL 402 (back left of GSWS wing on fourth floor)

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:30–12:00 or by appointment in CL 617G

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar will examine a range of foundational and contemporary approaches to the study of gender and the body. We will be particularly interested in the history and politics of embodiment, including intersecting processes through which bodies have been sexed, raced, classed, gendered, and (dis)abled. We’ll also pay close attention to recent developments in science, technology and the arts, including medical ethics, cosmetic surgery, social media, artificial life, and neuroscientific accounts of the “embodied mind.” Our readings will be drawn from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, from Anne Fausto-Sterling’s studies in gender and biology to the work of Donna Haraway on gender and embodiment in the age of intelligent machines. Each week we’ll put these more abstract theories in dialogue with a variety of detailed case studies, including recent developments in global politics, and examples taken from film, performance art, poetry, and science fiction, among many others. Students will be invited to orient their term papers toward their own fields of research.

**Books to buy online:**

Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest*

Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World*

Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Folger)

*All other required readings will be available on CourseWeb. Please have them available (on computer or printed out) on the day they are to be discussed. This is so that we can revisit particular passages in depth.*

**Presentations:**

In addition to your regular contributions to class discussion, you will have two more structured opportunities to share work and ideas:

For the **first presentation (5 mins),** bring in an interesting example that relates to one of the readings for that day and/or offer a brief response to one of the readings for that day.

The **final presentation** **(8 mins)** will be during the last three weeks of class and will be somewhat more formal (but still, hopefully, fun and interesting). Each person should do an eight-minute presentation on a topic that you are working on for the final paper; you may also integrate your presentations and present as pairs or in larger groups.

**CourseWeb Postings:**

We’ll have four sets of posts for this class, approximately every two weeks before the break. This will be a chance for you to explore a problem in some depth in ways that might lead towards a term paper. Please post on time (Sunday evenings before you go to sleep) so that everyone can have time to read and respond to the posts by Tuesday. Please respond to 2 – 4 posts.

**Annotated Bibliography or Bibliographic Essay (due Friday, Nov 21):**

You have various options for this assignment: the goal is for you to get started on your final paper in some way. The conventional approach would be to find at least 8 sources on potential topics for your final paper. These may include both primary and secondary sources. Your annotations may be fairly informal. Select the information/passages that were most relevant to your project. This assignment will be evaluated according to the quality and depth of your research and the degree to which you can find sources that either speak to each other or speak to the particular problem or issue you are investigating. Indicate which sources you have used before and which are brand new. This will be posted on CourseWeb so that others can benefit from your research.

**Final paper (Approximately 18 pages): Due Wed, Dec. 17**

The course is designed to allow you to pursue your own interests for the final project. The paper should do two things, however: 1) Explore a well-defined problem and a small selection of texts/passages in depth rather than offering a broad survey; and 2) Address one or more of the larger theoretical problems discussed in the course in some significant way. I am happy to read a draft at any time—just try to give me at least few days to turn it around.

**Academic integrity:**

The University’s guidelines for academic integrity are in effect for this class. You must clearly acknowledge ALL outside sources you have used for written work (books, articles, internet searches, friends, etc.). Please see the published code: [http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html](http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html" \t "_blank).

**Disabilities:**

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

**Grading (approximate):**

Class Participation: 20%

CourseWeb Postings: 15%

Oral Presentations: 10%

Annotated Bibliography: 15%

Final Paper: 40%

**Schedule of Readings & Assignments:**

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| DATE | TOPICS | READINGS | OTHER |
| Aug 26 | **Introduction:**  **Historical Perspectives** | Brief history of biological theories of sex/gender  Case studies: Shakespeare, Sonnet 20 (“Master-Mistress”)  Milton, descriptions of Adam and Eve from *Paradise Lost* |  |
| Sept 2 | **Histories of Gender and Embodiment** | Paster, Introduction to *The Body Embarrassed*  Nocentelli, “Perverse Implantations”  Burton and Loomba, Introduction to “Race in Early Modern England,” esp. “Race, Gender, and Sexuality” (17–20)  *Case study:* Shakespeare, *Othello*, Acts 1 & 2 | First presentations (5 minutes):  Bring and discuss an interesting example related to readings |
| Sept 9 | **Methods I: Intersection-ality** | Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins:  Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”  Choo & Ferree, “Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research”  *Case Study:* Shakespeare, *Othello*, Acts 3–5  Lupton, “Othello Circumcised” | First discussion board posting: due Sunday, Sept 7 |
| Sept 16 | **Methods II: The Biopolitics of Particularity** | Warner, “The Mass Public and the Mass Subject”  Haraway, “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective”  Elizabeth Grosz, Introduction and “Lived Bodies” from *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism* |  |
| Sept 23 | **Methods III: Approaches to Materiality—Biology, Psychology, Philosophy** | Fausto-Sterling, *Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World*  Freud, “Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction between the Sexes”  Grosz, “Body Images: Neurophysiology and Corporeal Mappings,” and “Sexed Bodies”  Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution” | Discussion Board #2 due Sunday, Sept 21 |
| Sept 30 | **Approaches to Materiality, continued** | Fausto-Sterling, “The Dynamic Development of Gender Variability” (text for discussion for Thursday colloquium)  \*Butler, Introduction to *Bodies that Matter*  Clark, “Language, Embodiment, and the Cognitive niche”  Salamon, “Transfeminism and the Future of Gender,” from *Assuming a Body: Transgender and Rhetorics of Materiality* |  |
| *Please attend unless you have a conflict:* Thursday Oct. 2, 10:00-11:30: Faculty/grad colloquium, “The Dynamic Development of Gender Variability,” with Prof. Fausto-Sterling. 1001-B Cathedral of Learning. | | | |
| Oct 7 | **Queer and Trans Affects** | Crawford, “Transgender without organs”  Butler, “Gender is Burning: Questions of Appropriation and Subversion.”  Goldberg, “What Is a Woman? The dispute between radical feminism and transgenderism”  Heather Love, “Queer,” in *TSQ,* and other entries  *Case studies*: debates around michfest  Film: Paris is Burning (1990): watch whole thing |  |
| Oct 14 | **NO CLASS: FALL “BREAK”**  (Monday classes meet on Tuesday, Oct 14) | | Discussion Board #3 due Sun., Oct 12 |
| Oct 21 | **Queer and Trans Affects II** | Ahmed, Introduction and Chapter Seven (“Queer Feelings”) from *The Cultural Poetics of Emotion*  Freud, “Mourning and Melancholia”  Butler, “Melancholy Gender/Refused Identification” |  |
| Oct 28 | **Male Bodies and Melancholy Gender** | Claire Denis, *Beau Travail*  Reeser, “Theorizing the Male Body,” chapter four of *Masculinities in Theory*  MacKinnon, “After Mulvey: Male Erotic Objectification”  First two acts of Shakespeare, *As You Like It*  *Recommended:* Melville, *Billy Budd*  Sedgwick, selections from *Epistemology of the Closet* |  |
| Nov 4 | **Technology and the Body I:Clothes, Dildos, and other Things** | Freud, “Fetishism” (1927)  Chemero, “An Outline of a Theory of Affordances”  Blake, “Dildos and Accessories: The Functions of Early Modern Strap-Ons”  Jones and Stallybrass,“Busks, Bodices, Bodies”; Stallybrass, ‘Transvestism and the ‘Body Beneath’: Speculating on the Boy Actor”  *Case Studies:*  Last three acts of Shakespeare, *As You Like It*  Selections from polemics against cross-dressing: *Hic Mulier: Or, The Man-Woman: Being a Medicine to cure the Coltish Disease of the Staggers in the Masculine-Feminines of our Times*; Antitheatrical attacks on boy actors |  |
| Nov 11 | **Technology and The Body II: Cyborgs** | Haraway, “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century,” chapter Eight of *Simians, Cyborgs and Women*  *Case Studies:*  Mamoru Oshii, *Ghost in the Shell* (1995)  Ovid, story of Pygmalion, from the *Metamorphoses*  Interview with performance artist Stelarc: <http://cec.sonus.ca/econtact/14_2/donnarumma_stelarc.html> |  |
| Nov 18 | **Technology and The Body III: Surgery** | Wegenstein, selections from *Cosmetic Gaze: Body Modification and the Construction of Beauty*  Debates on medical ethics of surgery, from *OB GYN News*  Case Studies:  Pedro Almodovar, *The Skin I Live In*  Stelarc, third ear: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7039821.stm>   |  | | --- | |  |   Recommended: Georges Franju’s *Eyes without a Face* | Annotated Bibliographies due  Friday, Nov 21 |
| Nov 25 | **Globalism** | Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest*  Chin Woon Ping, “Details Cannot Body Wants”  Pravinchandra, “Body Markets: The Technologies of Global Capitalism and Manjula Padmanabhan’s *Harvest”* |  |
| Dec 2 | **Disability** | **Garland-Thomson, from** Physical Disability in American Literature and Culture, and Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body McRuer, “Afterword: Bioethics, Sexuality, and Gender Identity” *Case Study:* Terry Galloway, *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir* |  |
| Dec 9 | Topics TBA | Student presentations |  |
| **FINAL PAPERS DUE: Wednesday December 17 by 4:30 (in my mailbox in CL 501)** | | | |