This course will explore a broad range of contemporary theory concerned with bodies, embodiment, and bodily difference. As a field shaped by questions of gender, sexuality, dis/ability, and race, body theory is generally concerned with power and inequality, difference and resistance. Yet body theory also has its critics who accuse it of losing track of the physical realities of embodiment in favor of abstract, overly-constructivist approaches. We will examine all sides of this critique, as well as the usefulness of body theory for students’ own fields and interests, and its relevance to our embodied experiences.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Susan Bordo. *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body.*


*Available as e-book through library website.
**Can be accessed online through library website under “Journals” tab.

→Books have been ordered at A Room of One’s Own, 15 W. Gorham St. (off State), 257-7888. All books are also on reserve at College Library (Helen C. White).

All other course readings will be posted on Learn@UW.

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**THIS COURSE COUNTS TOWARD THE FOLLOWING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:**

1) GWS Major/Certificate: theory course, 2) LGBT Certificate: course credit
3) GWS Ph.D. Minor: course credit, 4) GWS M.A.: theory course
**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS:**

1. **Attendance:** Attendance in this class is required and essential for our community learning process. Each absence above three (3) per semester will result in a five (5) percentage point reduction of your *semester* grade (i.e. a 90% AB would become an 85% B). You must attend at least 50% of classes to receive a passing grade. Lecture notes and powerpoint slides will *not* be posted online or shared. If you must miss class, please obtain notes from a classmate or meet with me to discuss what you missed.

   **Religious Holidays:** Absences due to religious holidays will not be penalized. However, you must inform me *at least two weeks in advance* if you are missing a class for religious reasons, and you are responsible for finding out what happened in class that day and for turning in assignments.

2. **Participation:** Active and engaged participation is very important for this course. You may earn participation points for coming to class well-prepared, showing that you have completed all assigned readings, engaging in a lively discussion of class topics, doing in-class writing assignments, responding thoughtfully and generously to your classmates, and visiting me in office hours. Participation grades begin at an 85 (B), and can be increased or decreased based on the criteria above.

3. **Discussion Posts:** Each *Wednesday by 7:00 p.m.*, beginning on SEP. 10, you are required to post a comment or question to the “Discussion” section of our Learn@UW page on the course readings for the current week. Postings may be simple or complex, short or long, single or multiple. There are absolutely no questions too basic or “stupid” to ask! You will receive 10 points for each week on which you post at least once. Late postings will receive 5 points.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:**

1. **Presentations:** You will each make a brief (4-5 min.) presentation to the class which can be creative, critical, or a combination of both. I will explain presentations in more detail in class when we sign up for them. *On the day of your presentation, a 1-page write-up of your presentation is also due.*

2. **Midterm Exam, DUE SEP. 30:** This take-home exam will be primarily in essay form and will be entirely based on readings and class lectures.

3. **Critical Paper, DUE NOV. 11:** A 4-5 page critical paper on course readings. Guidelines and topics will be distributed two weeks in advance.

4. **Final Project, DUE DEC. 11:** The final project may take one of the following forms:
   1) A **critical paper** of 5-6 pages.
   2) A substantial creative project (art, creative writing, performance, etc.) accompanied by a 2-3 page **critical paper** relating the project to the theories we read in class.
ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. Précis, DUE OCT. 23: A précis (annotated outline) of one of the five main texts assigned for the class. This assignment requires that you read the entire text, not just the excerpts assigned in class. In the case of the *Foucault Reader*, you would not read the rest of the *Reader*, but rather, one of his complete books: either *The History of Sexuality, Part I*, or *Discipline and Punish*. I advise you to choose your text early in the semester, keeping in mind that you may choose a text which appears on the syllabus after the précis due date. For more details, see the handout, “Précis Assignment.”

2. Graduate student discussion section: Graduate students are expected to meet as a group, in addition to our regular class meetings, a total of five (5) times during the semester: three (3) times on your own, and two (2) times with me.

3. Final Paper, DUE DEC. 20: The final paper will be a seminar length (20-30 page) critical research paper. If you wish to integrate any form of creative work into this paper, please see me early in the semester to discuss it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown:</th>
<th>Grading Scale:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation: 10%</td>
<td>A: 93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts: 10%</td>
<td>AB: 88-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation: 15%</td>
<td>B: 83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis Paper 20%</td>
<td>BC: 78-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 20%</td>
<td>C: 70-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project: 25%</td>
<td>D: 60-69</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

1) Emails and Office Hours: I will endeavor to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt. Please do not rely entirely upon email to communicate with me: Emails are fine for short questions, but to discuss papers and exams, it is necessary to meet in person. I welcome you to office hours, and suggest you plan ahead to make appointments for the busy weeks before deadlines. Questions about grades will only be discussed during office hours or appointments, not over email or in class.

2) Classroom Conduct: Please respect your fellow students’ right to a quiet and non-distracting learning environment. Cell phone use, websurfing, texting, IMing, Twitter, Snapchat, and other distractions of modern life are not allowed during class. If you use a laptop computer during lecture, you must sit in the front row of the classroom and you may not have a web browser open. You may not use laptops during discussion. Laptop privileges may be revoked at any time.

3) Late Paper Policy: Papers and exams turned in late will be penalized by five (5) percentage points for each 24-hour period after the due date. No late papers or exams will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

4) Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism and Cheating): This class will strictly follow and enforce the university’s policies on academic misconduct. UWS 14.03 defines academic misconduct to include acts in which a student seeks to claim credit for the
work or efforts of another without authorization or citation. Examples include but are not limited to:

a. Cutting and pasting text from the web without quotation marks or proper citation.

b. Paraphrasing from the web or written texts without crediting the source.

c. Using notes in an exam when such use is not allowed.

d. Using another person’s ideas, words, or research and presenting it as one’s own.

Complete information on academic misconduct is at [www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html](http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html).

5) **Writing Center**: For additional help with papers, visit the Writing Center at any stage during the writing process. Stop by 6171 Helen C. White, call for an appointment (263-1992), or consult the Center’s resources online at [www.wisc.edu/writing/](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/).

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**Statement on Accessibility:**
It is very important to me to fully include all students with disabilities or learning differences in this course. Please let me know as early in the semester as possible if you need any accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order to enable you to participate fully. The McBurney Center can provide useful assistance and documentation. The syllabus and all course materials are available in large print or electronic formats on request, and will be posted on Learn@UW as much as possible.

**Statement on Grade Appeals:**
If you have questions about a grade, please speak first to me. If the question is not resolved, speak with the Chair, Judy Houck, or Associate Chair, Christina Ewig. They will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the Appeals Procedures if no resolution is reached informally.

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**WEEK 1**

**Sep. 2: Introductions**


**Sep. 4: Foucault: Bio-Power**

FR, 258-272

**WEEK 2**

**Sep. 9: Foucault: The Repressive Hypothesis**

FR, 292-329

→ **Sep. 10: Discussion Post #1 due on Learn@UW by 7:00 p.m.**

**Sep. 11:** M.E. Bailey, “Foucauldian Feminism: Contesting Bodies, Sexuality, and Identity”

Ann Laura Stoler, “Placing Race in the History of Sexuality”
WEEK 3
Sep. 16: Foucault: Docile Bodies
FR, 170-205
→ Sep. 17: Discussion Post #2 due

Sep. 18: Foucault: Surveillance and Panopticism
FR: 206-225
Shapiro, “Panopticon,” from Archaeologies of Vision
→ Grad students meet with me this week

WEEK 4
Sep. 23: Feminism and Foucault
Sandra Lee Bartky, “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”
Kate Soper, “Forget Foucault?”
Matthew Immergut, “Manscaping: The Tangle of Nature, Culture, and Male Body Hair”
MIDTERM EXAM distributed in class
→ Sep. 24: Discussion Post #3 due

Sep. 25: Foucault in Practice
Honi Fern Haber, “Foucault Pumped: Body Politics and the Muscled Woman”
Eugenia Kaw, “Medicalization of Racial Features”
Dean Spade, “Mutilating Gender”

WEEK 5
Sep. 30: Ab/Normal Bodies
Rosemarie Garland Thomson, Extraordinary Bodies, 4-53
MIDTERM EXAM due at the beginning of class
→ Oct. 1: Discussion Post #4 due

Oct. 2: Extraordinary Bodies, 55-80

WEEK 6
Oct. 7: Ab/Normal Bodies, pt. 2
Susan Bordo, Unbearable Weight, 1-42, 99-212
→ Oct. 8: Discussion Post #5 due

Oct. 9: Presentations-Group 1

WEEK 7
Oct. 14: Unbearable Weight, 296-300 (on Reebok ads)
Cecilia Hartley, “Letting Ourselves Go: Making Room for the Fat Body in Feminist Scholarship”

→ Oct. 15: Discussion Post #6 due

Oct. 16: Film (in class): *Sins Invalid: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty*

### WEEK 8
Oct. 21: *Ab/Normal Bodies, pt. 3 (Baby’s Got Back edition)*
Janell Hobson, “The ‘Batty’ Politic: Toward an Aesthetic of the Black Female Body”
SB 289: Tara Betts, “Hottentot’s Onlooker”
→ Oct. 22: Discussion Post #7 due

Oct. 23: Presentations-Group 2

→ PRÉCIS DUE (graduate students only)

### WEEK 9
Oct. 28: *Violence and Racialized Bodies*
→ Oct. 29: Discussion Post #8 due

Oct. 30: Presentations-Group 3

### WEEK 10
Nov. 4: *Violence and Racialized Bodies pt. 2*
Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*, 3-55
→ Nov. 5: Discussion Post #9 due

Nov. 6: *Killing the Black Body*, 150-201, 294-312

### WEEK 11
Nov. 11: *Constructing Gendered Bodies*
Thomas Laqueur, “Orgasm, Generation, and the Politics of Reproductive Biology”
→ CRITICAL PAPER DUE
→ Nov. 12: Discussion Post #10 due
Nov. 13: Catch-Up Day

WEEK 12

Nov. 18: Constructing Gendered Bodies, pt. 2
Judith Butler, Excerpts from *Gender Trouble, Bodies That Matter*, and *Undoing Gender*
SB 315-318: Sarah Chinn, Review of Judith Butler’s *Undoing Gender*
Supplementary: *Unbearable Weight*, 289-295 (Discussion of *Gender Trouble*)
Optional: Jay Prosser, “Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex”
→ Nov. 19: Discussion Post #11 due

Nov. 20: J. Jack Halberstam, “An Introduction to Female Masculinity,” from *Female Masculinity*
Hiram Perez, “You Can Have My Brown Body and Eat it Too!”
José Esteban Muñoz, “The White to Be Angry: Vaginal Davis’s Terrorist Drag”

WEEK 13

Nov. 25: Hybrid Bodies: Cyborgs
Donna Haraway, “A Manifesto for Cyborgs”
Anne Balsamo, “Reading Cyborgs, Writing Feminism”
Jennifer González, “Envisioning Cyborg Bodies”
Supplementary: *Unbearable Weight*, 245-275

Happy Thanksgiving!

WEEK 14

Dec. 2: Hybrid Bodies: Mestiza Consciousness
Gloria Anzaldúa, Excerpts from *Borderlands/La Frontera.*
→ Dec. 3: Discussion Post #12 due

Dec. 4: Explicit Bodies
SB 249-270: Tim Stuettgen, “Disidentification in the Center of Power”
Rebecca Schneider, “Binary Terror and the Body Made Explicit”
Nomy Lamm, “Private Dancer”

WEEK 15

Dec. 9: Wrap-up/Catch-up Day

Dec. 11: FINAL PROJECTS DUE IN CLASS

Dec. 20: GRADUATE STUDENT FINAL PAPERS DUE VIA EMAIL