

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 403-70
GENDER AND BEAUTY
SUMMER 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Otto Penz
OFFICE: SS 952
PHONE: 220-5982 or 220-6501 (General Office)
OFFICE HOURS: MW 17:00 - 18:00 or by appointment
CLASSROOM: SA 121
CLASS TIME: MTWR 18:00-20:45 (165 mins.)

COURSE SCOPE

The core theme of the course will be gender differences with regard to body images, beauty ideals and beautification methods (like diet, fitness activities or cosmetic surgery). Explanations of the status quo will refer to the uneven distribution of power between the gender, to gender roles and class differences within the gender - based on feminist studies and sociological literature on the body.

A historical perspective will be employed to illustrate significant changes of the gender relations from modernity to late modernity. Regarding contemporary developments, the role of mass media, advertising and fashion in the beauty discourse will be discussed in depth, i.e. the impact of our visual culture on gender and beauty concepts.

Grades		Date
In Class Presentations ¹	25%	August 7 - 14
Mid Term Examination ²	25%	August 5
Final Examination ³	50%	TBA by Registrar's Office

1. Student assignments will be allotted to research groups of approximately 2-3 students. Each group deals with a specific aspect of "Gender and Beauty". The In Class Presentation should be a 15 minute lecture accompanied by a 1page summary.

2. The format will be discussed in class.

3. The Final Examination will be a Registrar Controlled Examination.

READING

The course is organized around the following core text:

Woodward, Kathryn (ed.), Identity and Difference, Thousand Oaks: Sage 1997

Books placed on reserve reading:

Davis, Fred, Fashion, Culture and Identity, University of Chicago Press 1992
Fiske, John, Introduction to Communication Studies, New York: Routledge 1994
Fowles, Jib, Advertising and Popular Culture, London: Sage 1996
Kelly, John / Freysinger, Valeria, 21st Century Leisure, Toronto: Allyn and Bacon 2000
Shilling, Chris, The Body and Social Theory, London: Sage 1993
Volkwein, Karin (ed.), Fitness as Cultural Phenomenon, New York: Waxmann 1998

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Topic	Reading
July 24	Introduction	
July 28	Advertising	Fowles ch.10
July 29	Fashion	Davis ch.3
July 30	Signs & Meaning	Fiske ch.3, 5
July 31	Work & Leisure	Kelly ch.11, 13
August 4	Civic Holiday	
August 5	Mid-Term Examination	
August 6	Sport & Fitness	Penz in: Volkwein pp.33-54;
August 7	Slenderness	Shilling pp.107-114;
	Student Presentations	Bordo in: Woodward pp.167-181
August 11	Class Differences	Shilling ch.6; Bourdieu in:
	Student Presentations	Woodward pp.110-115
August 12	Theory 1: The Body	Woodward ch.2
	Student Presentations	
August 13	Theory 2: Health	Woodward pp.121-150
	Student Presentations	
August 14	Theory 3: Sexualities	Woodward pp.206-238
	Student Presentations	
	Summary	

Registrar Controlled Examination: TBA

Exam Policies: You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including

any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation-- must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.