



Department of Educational Studies

EDST 506 Educating the Body: Physicality and Identity in Historical Perspective

Dr. Mona Gleason (Office hours By Appointment)

Winter Term 2 January – April 2017

Tuesdays 4:30 – 7:30pm

PCOH 1011

Course Description

The body is an educational landscape of infinite suggestions and possibilities. It supplies rich metaphors about birth and death, health and illness, training and education, ability and disability. The construction of differences between and among bodies (for example, women's vs. men's bodies, "normal" vs. "abnormal" bodies, queer vs. straight bodies, fat vs. skinny bodies, child vs. adult bodies) confirms that they reflect contested relations of power. This course examines how bodies of various ages, races, classes, genders, sexualities, abilities, and national contexts have been educated, represented, regulated, restrained and manipulated across the 19th and 20th centuries. We will draw on recent body scholarship primarily (but not exclusively) in the areas of history, education, historical sociology, sociology and geography in international contexts. This seminar is intended to provide an overview of a range of scholarship on the body within these particular disciplinary traditions with a particular focus on education broadly conceived.

Course Themes

- Disciplining the body/ies
- Regulating the body
- Educating the body
- Medicalizing the body
- Normalizing the body
- Training the body
- Sexualizing the body
- Manipulating the body

Course Resources

The majority of our course readings are posted on our course Connect site. You will find our course outline and readings linked either as .pdf files or as Library reserve materials. Each weekly seminar meeting is organized around assigned readings intended to be accessible to all students. Some sessions may include document studies. Primary historical documents will introduce you to the kinds of materials historians use to interpret the past. **Seminar readings build on each other, making it necessary to keep up to date and to participate actively in seminar discussions. While an extensive background in history is not required, students are expected to seek advice on additional material to supplement their knowledge if necessary. Please take the initiative in this regard.**