Sociology of the Body

Professor Bryan S. Turner

Sociology of the Body
Professor Bryan S. Turner
Spring 2010

Course Requirements

Students will present three short papers. There is a ‘take home’ examination at the end of the course.

Classes: Monday 9.50-11.00
Thursday 9.50-11.00

Key Texts


Essential Reading

Essential reading is identified by *. Other references are supplementary.

1. Introduction: body, self and society


2. What is a body?


3. Bodily Practices


4. Diet, Discipline and the government of the body
5. The Civilizing Process


6. Religion and the Body


7. Gender and feminist theories of the body


or


8. Clothing the Body: the veil


9. Medicalization


10. Consumption and the Body


11 Anorexia and other Ailments


or


12. Masculinity


or


13. Dance and the Body

14. Anthropology of the Body: tattoos, pork and pollution


15. Organs for sale


16. Disabled Bodies and the Disability Movement


or


17. The Monstrous Body


or


18. Politics and the Racial Body: fascism and communism


19. Colonial Bodies

20. Vulnerability and Technology


or

*Bryan S. Turner *Vulnerability and Human Rights* Pennsylvania: Penn State University Press ,ch .2

21. Can we live forever? Technological Utopia


or


22. The Posthuman Body and Transhuman society

*Francis Fukuyana *Our Posthuman Future* New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, chs 4 and 5