Sociology of the Body
SOC 275
Professor Bryan S. Turner
Spring 2009

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend all lectures and do all required readings. Grades will be based on two short papers, a mid-term examination, and a final ‘take home’ examination at the end of the course.

Text available in bookshop


Course Outline and Readings

We will proceed according to the following outline. All readings listed are available on e-reserve. Supplementary readings are indicated as (S). They are not required, but are useful if you want to get a deeper understanding of the material.

1. Introduction: body, self and society


2. Discipline Sexuality and the Body


3. Diet and the government of the body


4. Social Constructionism: what is a body, what is sickness?


(S) Bryan S. Turner (2004) *The New Medical Sociology* New York: W.W.Norton, chs 2,3

5. Gender and feminist theories of the body


6. The Consumer Body and Postmodernism

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


(S) Special Issue on ‘Body Modification’ *Body & Society* vol.5(2-3).

8. Queer Bodies: lesbian and gay studies


9. Body Commodification: Organs for sale and cosmetic surgery


10. Bodily Practices


11. Can we live forever? Technological Utopia


12. The Asian Body


13. Politics and the Racial Body: fascism and communism


**14. Religion and the Body**


**15. Dance and the Body**


(S) Special Issue ‘Dancing Bodies’ *Body& Society* vol. 11 (4)

**16. Posthumanism and the Monstrous Body**
