GSWS 831-5: ST: DUDE, WHERE’S MY BODY? BIOPOLITICS, BIOTECHNOLOGIES, BIOECOLOGIES (REMOTE)

Professor: Dr. Coleman Nye
Email: anye@sfu.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 16:00 – 17:00 on Zoom, by appointment

SYNCHRONOUS and/or ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS SCHEDULING
• Lecture materials will be recorded and available on canvas.
• Weekly discussions will take place on canvas and will include asynchronous and synchronous components. Attendance at synchronous online discussions (via BB Collaborate and/or Zoom) on Mondays from 2pm-4pm is encouraged, but not required. Recordings of these sessions will be made available on canvas. Other interactive online components will be available through Canvas, hypothes.is, or other platforms.
• Graduate student-only online discussions will occur synchronously 3 to 4 times during the semester at a collectively agreed-upon time on Monday afternoons. Synchronous attendance is required.
• Access to internet and a computer with camera and microphone will be required.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
We live in a historical moment in which cells are technologies, genes can be edited, organs and tissues are exchangeable, plastic molecules are laced through our bodies, and our limbs, senses, sex, looks, and lives are transformable. In this context, what is your body? Where does it begin and end? What are your biological properties? How much of your bodily substance and sensation is strictly “you” or “yours”?

Starting from feminist science studies scholar Donna Haraway’s enduring provocation, “Why should our bodies end at the skin?” (“A Cyborg Manifesto” 1991), we will spend the semester mapping and remapping the contours of this thing we call “a body.” This course traces and interrogates the numerous ways in which our bodies matter – socially, historically, technologically, biologically, politically, and economically. We will begin by reading focused selections from key theoretical texts that will help us to develop a shared language for talking about our bodies and their cultural, physical, and historical dimensions. The rest of the semester will be spent on case studies drawn from historical texts, anthropology, science and technology studies, performance studies, and critical cultural studies of race, gender, and sexuality.

Areas of exploration include constructions of race, sex and gender, drugs and addiction, social inequality, ecology, digital media, cosmetic surgery, contagion, organ transplantation, prosthetics, interspecies relations, reproductive technologies, nanotechnologies, biotechnologies, toys, toxins, food, and bioart.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS:
For more detailed information please see the GSWS website:
http://www.sfu.ca/gsws/graduate/courses/Educational_Goals.html

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY #10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)
COURSE READINGS:

- *Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs, and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era* (2013), Paul Preciado; e-book $24 at Indigo
- *Between the World and Me* (2015), Ta-Nehisi Coates; e-book $14 at Indigo, the audiobook is also exceptionally good and available through iTunes, GooglePlay, and other sources
- *M Archive at the End of the World* (2018), Alexis Pauline Gumbs; paperback $32.17 at Indigo, available as e-book through SFU library, but I strongly encourage getting a hard copy of the book that you can write in
- All other readings and materials will be made available on canvas

*I encourage you to purchase e-books from sellers that aren’t Amazon. If you want a paperback, Pulp Fiction Books is a great local bookstore that will order anything Amazon has at a comparable price and offers free shipping. They are also doing free delivery in Vancouver.*

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Weekly Modules (includes online discussion component, option for synchronous or asynchronous participation) – 20%
- Body Journal with Critical Analysis – 68% (6 entries @ 10 points each, 1 entry w/o analysis @ 8 points - 7 total)
- Seminar Leader – 12% (each student will facilitate one online discussion for a synchronous graduate seminar)