Special Topics in Sociology
SOCIOLGY OF THE BODY
E. Gee

COURSE CONTENT

After a brief introduction to the discipline of Sociology, this course will cover aspects of three topic areas related to the human body in its relation with social structure and social interaction. The first area will be concerned with human sexuality. Topics here include: a cross-cultural examination of sexual practices; changes in sexual behaviours/attitudes in the western case; commercial sex (e.g., pornography) and rape. The second area will examine health issues and will focus on concerns such as illness in relation to social control, gender differences in illness and mortality, and the medicalization of western society. The last area will include a brief examination of the "body in social interaction" and will cover selected aspects of non-verbal communication and the "stigmatized" body (e.g. fat).

REQUIRED READING

M. Siggens, Brain and the Boys: A Story of Gang Rape
P. Freund, The Civilized Body

In addition, a number of photocopied articles will be available at cost.

ORGANIZATION

One two-hour lecture-discussion and one two-hour tutorial weekly.

Two book reports: 30% each
Final Examination: 40%