DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES  
Fall 2000

WS 405-4  Issues in Feminist Theory: The Politics of the Body  
WS 822-5  Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory  

Mary Lynn Stewart  
Burnaby

The Politics of the Body considers and critiques feminist theory about the informal and formal politics of "natural" and/or "purely personal" aspects of everyday life, specifically theories about women's bodies, including body image, size and shape, personal hygiene, beauty, fitness, sexuality, and reproduction.

For most of the course, the instructor will use the first hour and a half to two hours of class time to lecture on major theorists and historical and anthropological evidence. In the next two hours of class, students will discuss the weekly reading assignments and make presentations. Any remaining half hours will be devoted to discussion of how to compile a bibliography, conduct research, and organize first an essay evaluating theory and a research paper applying theory about the body.

Required readings:
ISBN 0 415 925665  pbk

Course requirements and Grading Structure:
Contributions to discussion of reading assignments and student presentations: 30%  
Classroom presentation, in weeks 4 to 11: 15%  
Five to seven page essay evaluating a theory, due October 12th: 25%  
Ten to fifteen page research paper, due November 30th: 30%

Prerequisite for WS 405:
60 credit hours including 2 Women’s Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or WS 102.

The Graduate course WS 822 is offered in conjunction with WS 410. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.