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 next a research paper applying feminist 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 10th: 25%
Ten to fifteen page research paper, due November 21st: 30%

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

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THE DEPARTMENT OF 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.