WS 405-4  Issues in Feminist Theory: The Politics of the Body  
WS 831-5  Selected Topics – Graduate Seminar II:  
The Politics of the Body

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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 the 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 the major theories 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 two Women’s Studies courses, one of which must be WS 101 or WS 102.

The Graduate course WS 831 is offered in conjunction with WS 405. Graduate students are requested to meet with the instructor to discuss the increased workload and grading expectations.

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.