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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& by appointment
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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 925655 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 17th: 25%
Ten to fifteen page research paper, due December 1st: 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.