Course Description:
This seminar will reflect on the givenness of our embodiment from poly-disciplinary perspectives. It’s inspiration is basically philosophical, so, our reflection begins with Descartes, whose mind-body dualism has had far-reaching influence on Western and non-Western thought, science and culture. We will then consider avenues of thinking that go beyond Cartesianism. These will include philosophy, perception (especially touch), bodies of culture (race and gender), as well as psychoanalysis and trauma. The seminar is essentially exploratory: no one can be expert in all these areas, so we all must teach ourselves and help others learn as we can.

There are several other avenues of inquiry available to the seminar – body and the law/politics, visual arts, performing arts, religion to name just a few. I have reserved time in the semester schedule to make it possible for us to choose which avenues we would like to pursue. We will make a decision regarding that at an appropriate time. Should we find, as we move along, that we wish to depart from the outline of readings in this syllabus, we will do so.

Course Requirements:
Preparation for and participation in the daily meeting of the seminar is essential for the success of the seminar and its participants. Therefore, the most important requirement is to have read and reflected on the materials assigned for each class, and to come prepared to help make sense of the materials.

As part of the participation, each seminar participant will chose (sign up for) three essays for which they will make special preparation and for which they will serve as a ‘lead discussant.’ Lead discussants help seminar participants see valuable things in the reading, and valuable connections to the other readings – both those immediately proximate as well as from other classes.

Writing is also important process for learning and communicating. Individuals are expected to write approximately 25 pages of text during the course of the semester. One ‘major’ paper must be at least 12 pages in length. The remaining papers, which should focus on some thematic or phenomenon discussed in the class, should be at least 5 pages in length.

Grades:
Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade.
The ‘class discussant’ will each constitute 5% of the final grade.
Written work will constitute 60% of the final grade and will be proportionate to the amount of total writing done.
**Required Books:**
*Carnal Hermeneutics*, ed., Kearny and Treanor (CH)  
*Meditations on First Philosophy*, Descartes  
*Corpus*, Nancy  
*Being Nude: The Skin of Images*, Nancy

**Coordinates:**
email: rlilly; phone: x5406; office: Ladd 218; office hours MW 3:00-4:14; T 3:30-4:30 and by appointment.

**Program of Readings**

**Jan**  
25: **Intro**  

**Cartesian Foundation of the Modern Body**

**Feb**  
1  **Descartes**, Meditations, 5 & 6  
3  **Glimcher**, “Descartes and the Birth of Neuroscience”  

**Beyond Cartesianism**

15  **Merleau-Ponty**, *The Visible and Invisible*, pp. 130-155; 254-57; 269-74  
17  (M-P continued); **de Saint Aubert**, “Space and Body in Merleau-Ponty’s Philosophy of the Flesh”  
22  **Levinas**, *Totality and Infinity*, “Separation as Life”; “B. Phenomenology of Eros.”  
29  **Shustermann**, “The Body as Background,” from *Thinking through the Body*; **Weiss**, “The Body as narrative Horizon”

**March**
Touch

2  Casey, “Skin Deep: Bodies Edging into Place” (CH); Ratcliffe, “Touch and Situatedness”

7  Moran, “Between Vision and Touch: From Husserl to Merleau-Ponty” (CH); Shildrick, “Some Speculations on Matters of Touch”; Orbach, “Part I. There is No Such Thing as a Body,” Part II. Touch”

9  Henry, “Incarnation and the Problem of Touch” (CH); Nancy, “Strange Foreign Bodies,” “The Body of Pleasure”

Spring Break

Gender and Race

21  Butler, “Bodies that Matter”; Butler, “How Can I Deny That These Hands and This Body are Mine?”; *O’Byrne, “Umbilicus: Toward a Hermeneutics of Generational Difference” (CH).


Psychoanalysis/Trauma


April


6  Rothchild, The Body Remembers: a The Psychophysiology of Trauma and Trauma Treatment” “1. Overview of PTSD: The Impact of Trauma on the Body”; “3. The Body Remembers: Understanding Somatic Memory”
Recoupement

Nancy Corpus, 3-73 (this is a French-English face-to-face translation)

Nancy Corpus, 73-121

May

Birnbaum, “To Exist is to Exit the Point”; Nancy, “Fifty-Eight Indices of the Body”; “The Intruder”; Perpich “Opus Meum - Disintegrating Bodies and the Ideal of Integrity”

Resources

eBooks
1) Hyde, Bodies of Law

2) Casper, Missing Bodies: The Politics of Visibility

3) Gallagher, How the Body Shapes the Mind –

4) Wilcox, Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations

5) Gilbert, The World, the Flesh, and the Subject
http://www.jstor.org.lib2.skidmore.edu:2048/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1r22rz

6) Michel Serres: Variations on the Body


Articles
Alloa, “Getting in Touch: Aristotelian Diagnostics” (CH)
Bergoffen, “Mourning the Autonomous Body”
Bigwood, “Renaturalizing the body (With the Help of Merleau-Ponty)” 55-72
Cavarero, “Violent Female Bodies”
Cohen, Weiss (eds) Thinking the limits of the body
Deleuze & Guttari, “Introduction: Rhizome” from A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia
Dudrick, “Foucault, Butler and the Body”
Falque, “This is My Body: Contributions to a Philosophy of the Eucharist,” (CH)
Feraleigh, “Dance and Lived Body”
Fielding, “Depth of embodiment: Spatial and Temporal Bodies in Foucault and Foucault, “Afterword: The Subject and Power”
Foucault [Appendix: “Self-Knowledge and its Discontents,”
Foucault, “Technologies of the Self”
Foultier, “Language and the Gendered Body: Butler’s Early Reading of Merleau-Ponty,”
Geniusas, “The Subject of Pain: Husserl’s Discovery of the Lived Body:
Goh, “Plus d’un toucher: Touching Worlds”
Heidegger, Being and Time, §§ 18-21
Kurzweil, “Ch 8: The Mind as Computer,” 179-98 in How to Create a Mind 19pgs.
Henry, “Incarnation and the Problem of Touch” 16pgs (CH)
Howells, “The Deconstruction of Dualism: Death and the Subject”
Kall, & Zeiler, “Bodily Relational Autonomy”
Kristeva, “A Tragedy and a Dream: disability Revisited” 12pgs (CH)
Kroker , “Body Drift: Butler, Hayles, Haraway”
Lakoff , pp. 391-414: Descartes and the Enlightenment Mind” (23pgs) The Embodied Mind 16-44
Levinas “B. Enjoyment and Representation,” 109-142

McWhorter, “My Body, My Self: Foucault and Ecofeminism” 4pgs,.25
Michel Serres: Variations on the Body
Moran, “Sartre on Embodiment, Touch, and the “Double Sensation” 4pgs
Ogden – The Primal Edge of Experience, 9-46
Oksala, “Anarchic Bodies: Foucault and the Feminist Question of Experience” 19pgs
Orbach, “Part I: There is No Such Thing as A Body” 22pgs
Orbach “Can We Have a Body?: Desires and Corporeality” 20pgs
Poiana, “The Traumatic Origins of Representation” 18pgs, C.4 (art, pomo, psych)
Pollock, “Art/Trauma/Representation” 12pgs
Rambo, “Refiguring Wounds in the Afterlife (Trauma)” (CH), 15 pgs
Ross, “Natural Emptiness: Thoughts About theatre and the Body” 4pgs 2.5
Rothenberg, “Foreign Bodies: Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience” 10pgs
Shildrick, “Why Would Our bodies End at the Skin?: Embodiment, Boundaries, and Somatechnics” 12pgs (disabilities, Derrida, Deleuze)
Shusterman, “Muscle Memory and the Somaesthetic Pathologies of Everyday Life” 20pgs
Spicker, The Philosophy of the body: Rejections of cartesian dualism BD450 S68 1970
Steeves, “The Virtual Body: Merleau-Ponty’s Early Philosophy of Imagination” 9pgs
Tucker, “Sense and the Limits of Knowledge: Bodily Connections in the Work of Serres” 9pgs
Varela, “Harré and Merleau-Ponty: Beyond the Absent Moving Body in Embodied Social Theory” 15pgs
Warsop, “The Ill Body and das Unheimliche (the Uncanny)” 9pgs 4.4
Warsop, “Existential feeling, touch and ‘belonging’ (3pgs) [on Ratcliffe]
Warsop, “The ill body and das Unheimliche (The Uncanny) 11pgs
Warsop, “Existential Feeling, Touch, and ‘Belonging’” 3pgs
Wilcox, Lauren. Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations →