

History 4095/6095
The Body and the State in Modern Britain

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This course will explore the relationship between the bodies of different types of citizens--as they were imagined and experienced--and the British state. It begins with the British Anatomy Act of 1832, which allowed for the dissection of the poor, and ends with the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948. Paying close attention to issues of gender, sexuality, class, race, and ethnicity, this course examines both governmental policies for managing, disciplining, and providing for the bodies of citizens, and the reaction of the public to these methods. The course is organized thematically but it attempts to situate chronologically the rise of different types of bodies as historically problematic and in need of regulation.

Required Reading:

The following books are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please buy them early as unpurchased copies are returned to the publisher after 5 weeks:

Ruth Richardson, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute*
Marjorie Levine-Clark, *Beyond the Reproductive Body*
Judith Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society*
Clare Anderson, *Legible Bodies*
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Additional required readings are available on reserve at the library or on e-reserves. Please photocopy or download these readings and bring them with you to class. Please notify me if anything has been scanned incorrectly.

Assignments and Grades:

- Class participation includes **attendance** and **participation** in class discussions. (20%)
- A paper of 4-5 pages analyzing a primary source document will be **due October 8 at 5pm**. A selection of documents to choose from will be handed out in class. (20%)

- A final paper of 10 pages will be **due December 3 at 5pm**. I will hand out a detailed description of this assignment by February 21. (30%)
- A **final exam** (30%)

All assignments are due as indicated. I will take one mark off for each day late. Do not slip papers under my office door. If you do not hand the assignment to me directly, please have it date stamped by one of the History Department office staff in 211 and then leave it in my box. Please keep a copy of every assignment in case the original goes missing.

I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism. If I discover that you have plagiarized or misrepresented your work to me in any way, I will fail you for the course and bring your case to the Academic Misconduct Committee which may result in your expulsion. The University's student code can be found online at: www.saff.utah.edu/code.html.

January 9

Introduction

January 11, 16

The Poor

In what ways did doctors and government administrators portray and treat the poor as physically different "others"? How and why did the state manage these bodies?

Patricia Y.C.E. Lin, "Citizenship, Military Families, and the Creation of a New Definition of 'Deserving Poor' in Britain, 1793-1815"

M.A. Crowther, "The Workhouse"

Lisa Forman Cody, "The Politics of Illegitimacy in an Age of Reform"

January 18, 23

The Corpse

Who owns the dead body? Focusing on the treatment of bodies after death, we will explore the issue of rights to bodily integrity by examining contests over bodysnatching and anatomical dissection in the early nineteenth century.

Ruth Richardson, *Death, Dissection, and the Destitute*

January 25, 30

The Worker

Labour can also be a bodily enterprise. How did sexual differentiation inform the kinds of work that women and men did and did not do?

Marjorie Levine-Clark, *Beyond the Reproductive Body*

February 1, 6

The Irish

Were the Irish considered inside or outside the nation? How did the British state deal with Irish bodies during the famine and during political unrest?

L. Perry Curtis, "Simianizing the Irish Celt"

Michael O'Malley, "Local Relief During the Great Irish Famine"

George Sweeney, "Irish Hunger Strikes and the Cult of Self-Sacrifice"

February 8, 13

The Social Body

What constituted the social body in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? This week we will explore how the 19thc "public health" initiatives imagined the relationship between bodies, and their strategies for dealing with the problems of "contagion."

Patrick E. Carroll, "Medical Police and the History of Public Health"

Michael Sigsworth and Michael Worboys, "The Public's View of Public Health"

Nadja Durbach, "They Might as Well Brand Us"

February 15, 20

The Prostitute

From the second half of the nineteenth century prostitution was identified as a social problem. What role did the state play in the regulation of sexuality?

Judith Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society*

February 22, 27

The Homosexual

In many ways the homosexual functioned as a counterpart to the

prostitute: a male example of deviant sexuality. How did the state police homosexual behaviour?

Ed Cohen, "Legislating the Norm"

H.G. Cocks, "Safeguarding Civility: Sodomy, Class and Moral Reform in Early Nineteenth-Century England"

Charles Upchurch, "Forgetting the Unthinkable: Cross-Dressers and British Society in the Case of the Queen vs. Boulton and Others"

March 1, 6

The Animal

Animals became the subject of a contentious debate in the nineteenth century as animal rights activists began to protest the state-sanctioning of animal dissection. Why did animal rights suddenly become an issue of state concern?

Hilda Kean, "The Smooth Cool Men of Science"

Brian Harrison, "Animals and the State in 19thc England"

Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (excerpt)

March 8, 13

The Colonial

In an age of imperial expansion, how did Europeans imagine and manage the bodies of colonial "others"? In what ways did increased contact with other races alter Europeans' relationship to their own bodies?

Phillipa Levine, "Venereal Disease, Prostitution, and the Politics of Empire: The Case of British India"

Jean Comaroff, "The Diseased Heart of Africa: Medicine, Colonialism, and the Black Body"

John Nauright, "Sport and the Image of Colonial Manhood in the British Mind"

March 15, 27

The Criminal

How was criminality inscribed upon the body? What roles did gender, race, class, and ethnicity play in identifying some physical bodies as inherently criminal?

Clare Anderson, *Legible Bodies*

March 29, April 3

The Mother and the Child

Since mothers produce the next generation of citizens, motherhood

came to be seen as a legitimate sphere for state intervention. In what ways did mothers accept these interventions, and how did they resist, adjust, or accommodate them to their own ends?

Anna Davin, "Imperialism and Motherhood"

Margaret L. Arnot, "Infant Death, Child Care and the State"

James Vernon, "The Ethics of Hunger and the Assembly of Society: The Techno-Politics of the School Meal in Modern Britain"

April 5, 10

The Ideal Body

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, partially in response to imperial ventures, many Europeans raised the spectre of racial deterioration. How did eugenics and social hygiene movements characterize the "degenerate" and what solutions did they offer?

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

April 12, 17

The Soldier and the Civilian

The First World War profoundly impacted the male bodies of soldiers on the front lines. But war also altered civilian's experiences of their own bodies. Here we will examine the ways in which war mutilated some bodies and idealized others.

Seth Koven, "Remembering and Dismemberment: Crippled Children, Wounded Soldiers, and the Great War in Great Britain"

Angela Woollacott, "Khaki Fever and its Control: Gender, Class, Age and Sexual Morality on the British Homefront in the First World War"

Joanna Bourke, "Inspecting"

April 19, 24

Everybody: The National Health Service

In the post-WWII era a trend towards the Welfare State was evident across Europe. Britain's National Health Service reformulated the relationship between the body and the state in important ways by legislating that all citizens had rights to a minimum level of health care paid for by the state. This week we will explore the impact of the NHS on British society.

Virginia Berridge, "Health policy, health and society, 1948-1974"