

History 297A-B: Cultural History of the Body

(Syllabus updated on Feb. 24, 2006)

Winter - Spring 2006

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Office hours: Weds. 11-12 and Thurs. 10:30-12

This research seminar will sample recent work on the cultural history of the body. This is a large and varied field, and we will investigate it by reading an eclectic group of books and articles covering topics not limited to a single historical period. The subject matter includes history of science and medicine, gender studies, cultural history, and to a more limited extent, literary studies. Books in the schedule below are available at the ASUCLA bookstore; we will also be reading some articles, reviews and possibly some primary sources, depending on student interests. Our discussions will be enriched by the workshops in winter quarter that form part of the Clark Library core program on Vital Matters. These two workshops, one on "Life" and one on "Death", will bring together scholars in history and literary studies (both broadly construed), all working on the 18th century. For more on this program, visit

<http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/c1718cs/calendar.htm#core>

Students in the seminar should plan on attending the workshops, and we will discuss them the following week in class.

We are also fortunate that Lucia Dacome, a postdoctoral fellow in the Vital Matters program, and a scholar who has worked on the history of the body, has kindly agreed to present her work to our seminar on March 16.

The first quarter of the seminar will consist of readings and discussions at weekly meetings; by the end of the quarter students will define a research area, and begin work on projects to be developed in the course of the spring quarter. In the second quarter we will meet more sporadically, specifically to discuss the ongoing work on student research projects.

Schedule of Readings (through Week 8):

January 19:

Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*

Read also: Review of Laqueur by Katharine Park and Robert Nye

Critique of Laqueur published in 2003: Stolberg, Michael.

"A Woman Down to Her Bones: The Anatomy of Sexual Difference in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries"

In: *Isis* Vol. 94 (2003), p. 274-299

This is available online through UCLA library. There is also a response by Laqueur in the same issue.

January 26:

Barbara Duden, *The Woman Beneath the Skin: A Doctor's Patients in 18th-Century Germany*

February 2:

Charlotte Furth, *A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China's medical history, 960-1665*

February 9:

Joyce Chaplin, *Subject matter : technology, the body, and science on the Anglo-American frontier, 1500-1676*

February 16:

C. Lawrence and S. Shapin, eds., *Science Incarnate: Historical Embodiments of Natural Knowledge*

February 23:

Anne Vila, *Enlightenment and Pathology: Sensibility in the Literature and Medicine of 18th-Century France*

March 2:

Charlotte Furth, "[What Do We Think We are Doing When We do History of the Body?](#)"

Caroline Bynum, "[The Female Body and Religious Practice in the Later Middle Ages](#)," from *Fragmentation and Redemption: Essays on Gender and the Human Body in Medieval Religion*, (Zone Books, 1991)

Caroline Bynum, "Material Continuity, [Personal Survival and the Resurrection of the Body](#)", also from *Fragmentation and Redemption*

Bynum, "[The Body of Christ in the Later Middle Ages: A Reply to Leo Steinberg](#)" (also from *Fragmentation and Redemption*)

Bynum, "Why all the Fuss about the Body? A Medievalist's Perspective" *Critical Inquiry* 22 (1995): 1-33 (available on JSTOR)

Mar. 9: Reproductive Technologies

Barbara Duden, "[The Nilsson Effect](#)," from *Disembodying Women* (1993)

Carol Stabile, "[Shooting the Mother: Fetal Photography and the Politics of Disappearance](#)", from *The Visible Woman: Imaging Technologies, Gender and Science*, ed. P. Treichler, L. Cargwright, C. Penley (1998)

Emily Martin, "[The Woman in the Flexible Body](#)," from *Revisioning Women, Health and Healing*," ed. Adele Clarke and Virginia Olesen (1999)

Anne Balsamo, "[Public Pregnancies and Cultural Narratives of Surveillance](#)," from *Revisioning Women, Health and Healing*," ed. Adele Clarke and Virginia Olesen (1999)

March 16: Session with Lucia Dacome.

We will read 2 of her articles, plus:

Park, Katharine, "The criminal and the saintly body : autopsy and dissection in Renaissance Italy," *Renaissance quarterly* Vol. 47, no. 1 (Spring 1994), p. 1-33 (available on JSTOR)

Lucia Dacome, "[Truer than Life: The anatomical strategems of Benedict XIV](#)"
[PPT PDF](#)

Lucia Dacome, "[Living with the Chair](#)"

Lucia Dacome, "[With What Body do they Come?: Resurrecting by Numbers in 18th-Century England.](#)" [Image 1](#), [Image 2](#), [Image 3](#)