History 535 **Theme Seminar: Body, Gender, and Power**

Alix Cooper	office: SBS S-345
email: alix.cooper@stonybrook.edu	office hours: TBA

This theme seminar will investigate the ways in which, over the past several decades, historians have begun to explore the intersections between the personal and the political. How have individuals made sense of such everyday bodily experiences as sex, illness, and work, and how have such experiences been incorporated within broader configurations of power in society? The seminar aims to survey the wide range of rich and conceptually novel approaches that, in recent years, have been developed to address these kinds of questions. Examining the historical emergence of modern fascinations with such bodily markers as gender, race, and disability, the seminar will explore how individuals have negotiated their status within such frameworks amidst state and colonial pressures to regulate the 'body politic'.

Course Requirements: There will be four main kinds of work for the course (not counting actually doing the reading!): 1) active participation in weekly seminar discussions, during which you'll be expected to ask and answer questions on the readings, respond to your fellow students, and generally contribute to the flow of discussion; 2) frequent short in-class writing exercises, designed to help you clarify your ideas on the readings; 3) a brief oral presentation at some point during the semester during which you tell the class about an interesting resource you've located relevant to the course theme; and finally, as formal written work, 4) a short analytical paper on one week's readings (3-4pp.) and a preliminary bibliography (1-2pp.) leading up to a final paper (8-10pp.) in which you discuss a topic of your own choice (having convinced me that it has *some* connection with the themes of the course!), examining how historians (and/or other scholars) have addressed the topic over time. I'll expect that you'll meet with me at least twice over the course of the semester (once early on, once later on) to talk about your ideas for and later progress on your paper.

Books: The following required books should be available for purchase at the campus bookstore, as well as through special order at any other bookstore (bricks-&-mortar or online) of your choice:

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, v. 1: An Introduction* Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* Jennifer L. Morgan, *Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery* Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China* Elizabeth Haiken, *Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery*

Additional article-length readings will be available on the course Blackboard website.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(e) = on E-Reserves through Blackboard

Sept. 7 Introduction

Sept. 14 Approaching Body History Barbara Duden, "History Beneath the Skin" (e) Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" (e) Oxford English Dictionary entry for "body" (e) Elizabeth Grosz, "Refiguring Bodies" (e) Judith Butler, "Bodies that Matter" (abridged) (e) note: meet with me this week or the next to chat about ideas for your paper

Sept. 21 Body Narratives I

Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality, v. 1: An Introduction

Sept. 28 Body Narratives II

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

Oct. 5 The Body and the State

Jacques Le Goff, "Head or Heart? The Political Use of Body Metaphors in the Middle Ages" (e)

Ulinka Rublack, "The Public Body: Policing Abortion in Early Modern Germany" (e)

Afsaneh Najmabadi, "The Erotic *Vatan* [Homeland] as Beloved and Mother" [in Iranian modernity] (e)

Elisa Camiscioli, "Producing Citizens, Reproducing the 'French Race': Immigration, Demography, and Pronatalism in Early 20th-Century France" (e)

Oct. 12 Race, Colonialism, and the Body

Jennifer L. Morgan, Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery

Ann Laura Stoler, "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power" (e) *note: last possible week to hand in short analytical paper*

Oct. 19 The Body and Material Culture

Francesca Bray, Technology and Gender: Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China

Timothy Burke, "'Sunlight Soap Has Changed My Life': Hygiene, Commodification, and the Body in Colonial Zimbabwe" (e)

Oct. 26 Aesthetic Bodies

Elizabeth Haiken, Venus Envy: A History of Cosmetic Surgery note: preliminary bibliography due

Nov. 2 Masculine Bodies

- Ruth Mazo Karras, "Separating the Men from the Goats: Masculinity, Civilization and Identity Formation in the Medieval University" (e)
- Gail Bederman, "Remaking Manhood through Race & 'Civilization'", from *Manliness and Civilization* (e)
- Mrinalini Sinha, selections from Colonial Masculinity: The 'Manly Englishman' and the 'Effeminate Bengali' in the Late Nineteenth Century (e)

Thomas Klubock, "'Rotos Macanudos' and Football Stars: Popular Culture, Working-Class Masculinity, and Opposition in the Mining Camps" (e)

Nov. 9 NO CLASS—AWAY AT CONFERENCE

 Nov. 16 Bodies & Difference I: From Gender Ambiguity to Queer Studies
 Kathryn M. Ringrose, "Living in the Shadows: Eunuchs and Gender in Byzantium", in *Third Sex, Third Gender: Beyond Sexual Dimorphism in Culture and History* (e)

Randolph Trumbach, "The Birth of the Queen: Sodomy and the Emergence of Gender Equality in Modern Culture, 1660-1750" (e)Barbara Creed, "Lesbian Bodies: Tribades, Tomboys, and Tarts" (e)

George Chauncey, "Introduction", *Gay New York* (e)

note: meet with me this week if possible to discuss progress on final paper

Nov. 23 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

Nov. 30 Bodies & Difference II: From Monstrosity to Disability Studies

- Katharine Park and Lorraine Daston, "Unnatural Conceptions: The Study of Monsters in 16th- and 17th-century France and England" (e)
 - Rosemary Garland Thomson, "From Wonder to Error—A Genealogy of Freak Discourse in Modernity", in *Freakery: Cultural Spectacles of the Extraordinary Body* (e)

Nicholas Mirzoeff, "Paper, Picture, Sign: Conversations between the Deaf, the Hard of Hearing, and Others" in 'Defects': Engendering the Modern Body (e)

Martin S. Pernick, "Defining the Defective: Eugenics, Aesthetics, and Mass Culture in Early Twentieth-Century America" (e)

Catherine J. Kudlick, "Disability History: Why We Need Another 'Other'" (e)

Dec. 7 'Postmodern' Bodies

Susan Bordo, "'Material Girl': The Effacements of Postmodern Culture", in Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body (e)
Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "The Global Traffic in Human Organs" (e)
Donna Haraway, "The Biopolitics of Postmodern Bodies: Constitutions of Self in Immune System Discourse", in Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature (e)
note: final paper due today in class

Dec. 14 Last Class: Topic(s) to be chosen by seminar participants! TBA