

WESTERN UNIVERSITY

GSWS 3315G: Blood, Breath, and the Black Body
Winter 2023

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Instructor: Cornel Grey
Class Time: Wednesdays, 10:30 AM-3:30 PM
Location: UCC-63
Office: Lawson Hall 3270K
Phone: TBA
Email: cgrey6@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA

This upper-year seminar draws on Black feminist and queer theories to think through questions of health, risk, and care. We will consider some of the ways Black people have been depicted as non-human, vectors of disease and a problem for public health. Students will engage Black Studies scholars and artists whose critical interventions push us to think differently and expansively about what health science data can do for Black people, but also what it can do to Black people. Possible topics include the politics of blood donation in Blackness and fatphobia, anti-Black racism and pandemics, sexual risk and pleasure, and environmental racism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate and contextualize examples of anti-

and wellbeing of their members

ASSESSMENTS

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1. Participation 15%
2. Journal Entries (3 online posts, 7500 words each) 30%
3. Film Response (15000 words) 20%
4. Action Plan 35%
 - a. Project Proposal (10%)
 - b. Creative Output (25%)

ASSIGNED READINGS

Jan 11-Black Feminist Interventions in Health Studies/Science

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 Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience (2): 1-27.
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 (GXFDWLRQ Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies (April): 159-74.
 6PLWK %HYHUO\ μ %ODFN :RPHQ ¶AW the WDWK WHR, HV IRU
 \$OO WKH %ODFN \$UH 0HQ %XW 6RPH R, edited by Gloria
 T. Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith, 1993. Old Westbury, NY: The Feminist
 Press.

Jan 18-Documenting Cancer

* XPEV \$OH[LV 3DXOLQH μ The Feminist Wire 29 October, 2012 DW ¶
<https://thefeministwire.com/2012/10/the-shape-of-my-impact/>
 Lorde, Audre. 1980 The Cancer Journals 1st ed. Argyle, N.Y: Spinsters, Ink.
Guest Speaker: TBA

Jan 25-The Black Body as Excess

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 +DUULVRQ 'D ¶6KDXQ / μ %ODFN :RPHQ ¶V 1H
 Fatness as Anti-Blackness 47-68. Berkeley, California: North Atlantic
 Books.
 Strings, Sabrina. 2015 Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobias
 Black Body 1HZ <RUN 8QLYHUVLW\ 3UHV 3)DW 5HYLVLWHG
Guest Speaker: TBA

Feb 1- Sex, Risk, Pleasure

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 RI \$, '6 AIDS and the Distribution of Crises edited by Jif Fei Cheng, Alexandra Juhasz,
 and Nishant Shahani, 2005. New York: Duke University Press.
 Douglas, Debbie, Gabrielle Micallef, V Tape, and Trinity Square Video. 1990. Another Love
 Story: Women & AIDS. Toronto: V Tape.
 :DOFRWW 5LQDOGR μ %ODFN &XP ¶R ¶R: 3EP, Pedagogy, DQG D
 and the Politics of Barebacking, edited by Ricky Varghese. Regina, Saskatchewan
 University of Regina Press.

Feb 8- Black Queer Art in the Age of HIV/AIDS

Readings TBA
Guest Speaker: TBA

Feb 15 Banned/Black/Blood

&KLQQ 6DUDK (μ 3/LEHUW ¶V /LIH 6WUHP ¶ %ORRG 5D
 Technology and the Logic of American Racism: A Cultural History of the Body as Evidence
 93-142. London and New York: Continuum.
 'U\GHQ 2PL6RRUH μ, W ¶V LQ 8V WR *LYH %ODFN /LIH D
 'RQDWLURQ ¶¶ We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada, edited by
 Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware. Regina, Saskatchewan: University
 of Regina Press.

