

FYS: "CROSSING OVER: BOUNDARIES & THE BODY"

DRAKE- FALL 2018

Instructor: Prof. Christopher Baum
 Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 - 1:45pm
 Room: Meredith Hall 0229

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1. INTRODUCTION & COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome everyone! This course encourages us to consider the human body not only as an organic, physical presence – but as a social and cultural product. Over the semester, we will draw from diverse readings, lectures, films, discussions, and projects to explore the body in moments of becoming or transformation to help better identify, understand, and interpret the social and cultural dimensions of the body. The central questions guiding our class will ask:

- What are the stakes in bodily transformation?
- Whose bodies may permeate different kinds of boundaries, and why?
- How might boundaries function as forms of exclusion, but also open up spaces of possibility?
- How do moments of bodily “crossing over” demonstrate connections to power, privilege, or history?

While “crossing over” is the conceptual building block of our course, at its core this class is about helping you to develop as writers, critical thinkers, and scholars. To that end, this course will allow you to experiment with different modes of writing that are common in college courses, ranging from informal and exploratory writing to thesis-driven research papers. Our readings draw heavily from the social sciences (anthropology and sociology), but we will also engage with readings and texts across many disciplines and genres including history, fiction, poetry, as well as documentary and narrative cinema.

2. ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

ASSIGNMENTS	% OF GRADE
Course Engagement (40 pts total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendance (5pts) ▪ Think Pieces I – IV (4x 5 pts each = 20 pts) ▪ “Low Stakes” Writing Exercises (5 pts) ▪ Discussion Leader (5 pts) ▪ Participation in Library Workshop (Nov 15) & two visits Writing Workshop (5 pts) 	40%
Midterm Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peer-Editing Session (5 pts) ▪ Final Paper (20 pts) 	25%
Final Essay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Peer-Editing Session (5 pts) ▪ Final Paper (30 pts) 	35%

COURSE ENGAGEMENT

- Attendance (5pts) Coming to every class, on-time is a requisite for success in this class, and attendance is taken at all class meetings. For each unexcused absence 1 point will be taken from your attendance grade.

- “Think Pieces” (20 pts) The format of each “Think Piece” is a bit different, but each asks that you use writing to engage more deeply with a variety of course topics. These will help to prepare you for the mid-term and final essays. All due dates are clearly marked in this syllabus.
- Low-Stakes Writing Exercises (5 pts) Low-stakes writing assignments are, generally, short writing assignments completed in class. You will be given a ✓, ✓+, or ✓- for each of these assignments.
- Discussion Leader (5 pts) During the first week of class, each student will choose a class session to be a discussion leader. During the class where you are the “leader,” you will be asked to briefly present on the readings for that day, and offer insights during lecture and discussion. More details to follow.
- Participation in Library Workshop (Nov 15) & two visits to the Writing Workshop (5 pts)
Library Workshop: On **November 15**, librarians will lead our class through a customized workshop on gathering sources and conducting research for your final paper.
Writing Workshop: I require that you bring drafts of your midterm and final essays to the Writing Workshop (Cowles 47). → For the Midterm Essay, you must visit the Writing Workshop *between Tuesday 10/2 and Wednesday 10/10*. → For the Final Essay, you must visit the Writing Workshop *between Tuesday 11/27 and Tuesday 12/4*.

More details to follow; these components are required for this class.

MIDTERM & FINAL ESSAYS

- Over the semester you will write two essays related to course themes. Deadlines are clearly marked in the syllabus – more instructions to follow.

3. BOOKS & COURSE MATERIALS

IMPORTANT: Unless otherwise specified: assigned readings must be brought with you to each class meeting.

Required Books

- Coates, Ta-Nehisi *Between the World and Me*. (2015, ISBN: 978-0-8129-9354-7)
- De León, Jason *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. (2015, ISBN: 978-0-520-28274-2)

Articles In addition to the textbook, a great deal of the readings for this class are available on Blackboard. On Blackboard, follow the link to “Course Readings” and the articles are alphabetized under the author’s last name. These readings are *mandatory* for this class.

Films and Videos We will also be screening films and video clips over the semester. These films are equally as important to the course as the readings, so if you miss a screening, you will be responsible for viewing the material on your own. Many films are accessible on the web; films/videos that are not easy to access I will look into putting on reserve at Cowles Library.

4. CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Culture This class will inevitably touch on issues and themes that many people will feel strongly about. I am confident that you will all remain respectful and open-minded, but please note that intolerance, personal attacks, slurs, insults, and offensive language/behavior will not be tolerated.

Students who talk amongst themselves or use mobile phones will be asked to leave class. Electronics (including laptops) are not permitted in this class.

Due Dates and Late Assignments Assignments are due on the day they are assigned and electronic submissions are not accepted without prior permission. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due IN-CLASS (I'll be very clear if there are other submission guidelines). For each class session that an assignment is late, 5% will be deducted from the final mark.

Consultations I will hold weekly office hours, and encourage you to contact me early if you are having difficulty with the material, are unclear about a topic, or have other questions.

Writing Assistance This course demands a relatively high skill-level in writing, and you will be required to meet with the our colleagues in the Drake Writing Workshop at least twice throughout the semester. More details to follow.

Academic Integrity Cheating includes any form of unauthorized assistance during an examination, such as using notes or other study aids, or communicating in any way with another person for the purpose of answering test questions. It is cheating to receive unauthorized help during an examination and it is cheating to give unauthorized help during an examination. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. To avoid plagiarism, whether another's work is being presented in writing or orally, it must be acknowledged with sufficient citations to represent the source accurately. The failure to acknowledge the source of material is plagiarism regardless of whether that source was in writing, in oral communication, by electronic transmission, or by any other means.

Anyone who cheats or plagiarizes will receive an F for the assignment and an F for the course.

Misconduct Drake has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual or interpersonal misconduct. If you experience any form of sexual or interpersonal misconduct (which can include sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking) please know that there are resources available to you. Keep in mind that some resources are “legally confidential,” which means personal information will not be shared with anyone else. Other “non-confidential” (yet still private) can offer forms of support but are required to share information with our campus Title IX coordinator. Resources and reporting options can be found on the Title IX webpage at www.drake.edu/titleix, including confidential resources <https://www.drake.edu/titleix/reportingoptions/confidential-reporting/>.

Changes You can think of this syllabus like a contract between us. But like all contracts, adjustments are sometimes necessary. I will make sure to give advance notice, but please be advised that changes to readings and assignments are sometimes necessary to accommodate the flow of our class.

5. SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

DATE	TOPIC(S)	READINGS/ACTIVITIES/FILMS	DUE DATES
PART 1. BOUNDARIES, BORDERS, AND CATEGORIES - SEVERAL PERSPECTIVES			
Tues 8/29	<i>Introduction to the Course, Syllabus and Introductions!</i>	HANDOUT: Page, Joshua & Loïc Wacquant, “Practical Tips for Critically Reading Academic Prose”	
Thurs 8/30	<i>Origin Stories – Cosmology and Myth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i>, pp 28-44; 739-746 • Williams, “Nature” in <i>Keywords</i> 	

Tues 9/4	Natural History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farber, "Introduction" and "Chapter 1" in <i>Finding Order in Nature</i> (2000) • Marta Paterlini, "There shall be order. The legacy of Linnaeus in the age of molecular biology" (2007) 	
Thurs 9/6	Map Making/Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garfield, Selections from <i>On the Map: Why the World Looks the Way it Does</i> (2012) • Salinas, "The Politics of Making Maps" (2014) 	
Tues 9/11	Indigenous Knowledge	• Reading TBA	DUE: Think Piece 1
PART 2. BOUNDARIES & THE BODY			
Thurs 9/13	Gender & Medical Authority	• Emily Martin "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male- Female Roles" (1991)	
Tues 9/18	Race & Economic Development	• Pem Buck Chapters 1 and 2 from <i>Worked to the Bone</i> .	
Thurs 9/20	Disability & Norms	• Lennard J. Davis - "Constructing Normalcy: The Bell Curve, the Novel, and the Invention of the Disabled Body in the Nineteenth Century"	
Tues 9/25	Humans & Animals	• Reading TBA	DUE: Think Piece 2
Thurs 9/27	Technology & Cyborgs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: TBA HANDOUT: Midterm Essay Instructions 	DUE: Bring a laptop to class
PART 3. CROSSING OVER			
Tues 10/2	Human & Animal Distinctions I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gavin Francis "Transformation" and "Werewolves" in <i>Shapeshifters: A Journey Through the Changing Human Body</i> (2018) • Franz Kafka <i>Metamorphosis</i> (1915), pp TBA 	
Thurs 10/4	Human & Animal Distinctions II.	• Franz Kafka <i>Metamorphosis</i> (1915), pp TBA	
Tues 10/9	Ability & Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCREENING: Robert Rooy & David James Savarese, <i>Deej</i> (2017) • Reading TBA 	
Thurs 10/11	In-Class Midterm Workshop		DUE: Bring 2 printed copies of Midterm Essay (Draft)
Tues 10/16	--No Class Scheduled / Autumn Break--		
Thurs 10/18	Immigration I.	• Jason DeLeón, "Introduction" in <i>The Land of Open Graves</i> (2015)	DUE: Midterm Essay

Tues 10/23	Immigration II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gloria Anzaldúa Selections from <i>Borderlands</i> Jason DeLeón, Part I “This Hard Land” (pp 21-86) in <i>The Land of Open Graves</i> (2015) 	
Thurs 10/25	Immigration III.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason DeLeón, Part II “El Camino” (pp 87-200) in <i>The Land of Open Graves</i> (2015) 	
Tues 10/30	Immigration IV.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason DeLeón, Part III “Perilous Terrain” (pp 203-280) in <i>The Land of Open Graves</i> (2015) 	DUE: Think Piece 3
Thurs 11/1	Gender I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Valentine Selections from <i>Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category</i> (2007), Exact Pages TBA 	
Tues 11/6	Gender II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading TBA 	
Thurs 11/8	Race I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ta-Nahesi Coates, Part I (1-71) from <i>Between the World and Me</i> (2015) <p>HANDOUT: Final Essay Instructions</p>	DUE: Bring a laptop to class
Tues 11/13	- TBA -		
Thurs 11/15	Library Workshop – “Effective Research Strategies”	<p>**Class meets in Cowles 45**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading TBA 	
Tues 11/20	Race II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ta-Nahesi Coates, Part II & III (73-132) from <i>Between the World and Me</i> (2015) 	
Thurs 11/22	--No Class Scheduled / Thanksgiving--		
Tues 11/27	Race III.	<p>SCREENING: Laura Brownson, <i>The Rachel Divide</i> (2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ijeoma Oluo – “The Heart of Whiteness: Ijeoma Oluo Interviews Rachel Dolezal, the White Woman Who Identifies as Black” 	DUE: Think Piece 4
Thurs 11/29	Altered States I.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oliver Sacks, “Altered States” (2012) Michael Pollan <i>How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence</i> (2018), Exact Pages TBA 	
Tues 12/4	Altered States II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollan (cont’d) 	
Thurs 12/6	In-Class Final Workshop		DUE: Bring 2 printed copies of Final Essay (Draft)
Tues 12/11	DUE: Final Essay		