

EDST 506

Educating the Body: Physicality and Identity in Historical Perspective Winter Term 2, January – April 2006

Description: This graduate seminar examines the ways North Americans and Europeans in particular have educated, constructed, represented, regulated, and restrained bodies of various ages, races, classes, genders, abilities, and sexualities from the 18th to the 20th centuries. A central goal of the course is to understand and critique how and why traditional notions of "proper" bodies change and evolve over time, and what forces animate such change. Recurring focus on differences between women's and men's bodies, "White" and racialized bodies, children's and adult bodies, and between "normal" and "abnormal" bodies, suggests that the body is a symbol of social and political processes and tensions central to conceptions of identity, community, and social justice. Overarching themes in the course highlight, among other domains, education, popular culture, medicine, health, sexuality, and gender, from a historical perspective.