

MLITT IN RENAISSANCE STUDIES: OPTIONS

1. **Title:** Renaissance Bodies
2. **Tutor:** Professor Jonathan Sawday (University of Strathclyde)
3. **Module Description**

In the 1980s and 1990s interest in a number of academic disciplines (including cultural theory, medical history, social theory, art history, anthropology, and literary history) began to converge over the 'problem' of the body in history. In the guise of the 'New Somatics', the Body began to be analysed as an object which might be fashioned, organised, understood, represented, perhaps even experienced in ways which might be subject to new forms of historical analysis. This course takes as its starting point the idea that many of the contours of the modern body (and our own fascination with the somatic) have their roots in the art, literature, culture, technology, and rituals of the period between c. 1500-1700. As well as following the course of reading, and producing written work for assessment, students taking this module will be asked to introduce material of their own discovery (whether literary or visual) to the seminars for discussion.

4. **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this module, students will have:

- encountered a range of theoretical approaches to the body in post-modern discourse.
- explored a number of literary texts in which the body is represented.
- analysed the extent to which literary texts and visual material may be used in the construction of cultural history.
- increased their awareness of the variety of primary material dealing with this topic.

5. **Teaching Programme**

Week 1: A Theory of the Body?

Reading for this week: Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison* (1975, Peregrine Books, 1979) pp. 3-72; Bryan S. Turner, 'Recent Developments in the Theory of the Body' in Featherstone, Hepworth, and Turner (eds), *The Body: Social Process and Cultural Theory* (Sage, 1991) pp. 1-35; Ann Rosalind Jones and Peter Stallybrass, 'Fetishizing Gender: Constructing the Hermaphrodite in Renaissance Europe' in Julia Epstein & Kristina Traub (eds.), *Bodyguards: The Cultural Politics of Gender Ambiguity* (Routledge, 1991) pp. 80-111; Jonathan Sawday, *The Body Emblazoned: Dissection and the Human Body in Renaissance Culture* (Routledge, 1995), pp. 1-38.

Week 2: My Body/ My Self

Reading for this week: Thomas Nashe, *The Unfortunate Traveller* (1594) ed. J.B. Steane (Penguin, 1972); Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*; (1621-1651) (Xerox selections) self-portraits by Durer et al. (slides).

Week 3: Interiors

Reading for this week: Andreas Vesalius, *De humani corporis fabrica* (1543) in J.B. deC. M. Saunders & C.D O'Malley (eds.), *The Illustrations from the Works of Andreas Vesalius* (Dover, 1950) (Xerox and slides); Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (any ed.) (selections from Bk 11); Phineas Fletcher, *The Purple Island*, (1633) in F.S. Boas (ed.), *The Poetical Works of Giles and Phineas Fletcher* 2 vols. (CUP, 1908).

Week 4: Gender

Reading for this week: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* ('Salmacis and Hermaphrodite') trans. Mary M. Innes (Penguin), 1995, rpt. 1984) pp. 101-4; poems by Shakespeare, Marlow, Beaumont in Sandra Clark (ed.), *Amorous Rites: Elizabethan Narrative Verse* (Everyman, 1994); images by Carracci, Perino del Varga (slides).

Week 5: Bodies in Ecstasy

Reading for this week: St. Teresa, *The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila by Herself* (1562) trans. J. M. Cohen (Penguin, 1957); poems by John Donne, Richard Crashaw, John Wilmot (Earl of Rochester). Images by Caravaggio, Bernini (slides).

6. Bibliography

Francis Barker, *The Tremulous Private Body: Essays on Subjection* (Methuen, 1984) *Body and Society* (Sage Publications) Vol. 1 – (March 1995-)

Andrea Carlino, *Paper Bodies: Anatomical Fugitive Sheets 1538-1687* (Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 1999).

Andrea Carlino, *Books of the Body: Anatomical Ritual and Renaissance Learning* (Chicago, 1999).

Jonathan Dollimore, *Sexual Dissidence: Augustine to Wilde, Freud to Foucault* (Oxford, 1991).

Jonathan Dollimore, *Death, Desire and Loss in Western Culture* (Penguin 1998).

Julia Epstein, *Altered Conditions: Disease, Medicine, and Storytelling* (Routledge, 1995).

Lucy Gent & Nigel Llewellyn (eds.) *Renaissance Bodies: The Human Figure in English Culture c. 1540-1660* (Reaktion Books, 1990).

Jonathan Goldberg, *Sodometries: Renaissance Texts, Modern Sexualities* (Stanford UP, 1992).

David Hillman and Carla Mazzio (eds.), *The Body in Parts: Fantasies of Corporeality in Early Modern Europe* (Routledge, 1997).

Lynn Hunt (ed.) *The Invention of Pornography: Obscenity and the Origins of Modernity, 1500-1800* (Zone Books, 1993).

Peter C. Jupp & Clare Gittings (eds.), *Death in England: An Illustrated History* (Manchester UP, 1999).

Mary Jacobus et al. (eds.), *Body/Politics: Women and the Discourses of Science* (Routledge, 1990).

Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud* (Harvard, 1990).

Emily Martin, *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction* (Open University Press, 1987).

Ian McCormick (ed.), *Secret Sexualities: A Sourcebook of 17th – 18th Century Writing* (Routledge, 1997).

William Ian Miller, *The Anatomy of Disgust* (Harvard, 1997).

Roy Porter, *Disease, Medicine and Society 1550-1860* (Macmillan, 1987).

Roy Porter & Mikula Teich (eds.), *Sexual Knowledge, Sexual Science: The History of Attitudes Towards Sexuality* (CUP, 1994).

Roy Porter (ed.), *Rewriting the Self: Histories from the Renaissance to the Present* (Routledge, 1997).

James Grantham Turner (ed.), *Sexuality and Gender in Early Modern Europe* (CUP, 1993).

Marina Warner, *Monuments and Maidens: The Allegory of the Female Form* (Picador, 1985).

Andrew Wear (ed.), *Medicine in Society: Historical Essays* (CUP, 1992).