# Queen's University School of Kinesiology and Health Studies



| Course Name:<br>KNPE 367/3.0                         | Course Instructor:  Dr. Mary Louise Adams | Contact Hours: Lectures: 2 x 1.5 hrs/wk / 12 weeks Lab: 1 x 1.5 hrs/wk / 6 weeks  |
|--|---|---|
| Fitness, the Body and Culture  Not Offered 2020-2021 |   | Prerequisite:  KNPE 167/3.0 or (SOCY 226/3.0 and SOCY 227/3.0) or SOCY 221/6.0  Level 3 or above in a KINE, PHED, or SOCY plan. |

# **Course Description:**

In this course we will focus on fitness, exercise and the body. Over the last 150 years ideas about what counts as a fit body. who is able to have a fit body, and what one should do to attain one have changed significantly. In the present day, physical fitness is an important aspect of identity for many people. The guest for fitness consumes our leisure time and our money. Our desires to be fit are framed by popular notions of beauty and moral rectitude as well as by continually changing scientific ideas, which are themselves never free of ideological influences. Throughout the term we will explore historical and contemporary ways of making sense of fitness, exercise, and bodies to see how these are connected to broader social and political themes. Why is obesity the first non-infectious condition to be labelled an epidemic? What is the relationship between ideas about fitness and social differences of inequality like race, class, ability, sexuality, age, or gender? Our readings will be interdisciplinary and will include theoretical pieces as well as those specifically related to exercise, fitness and physical activity.

### **Course Texts:**

The readings for this course will be available on OnQ.

### **Intended Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To reflect on the meaning of fitness and physical activity in everyday life, especially the relationships between fitness and identity
- To investigate fitness and exercise as not just physical but also complex cultural, historical, and political phenomena
- To question taken-for-granted ideas about fitness, exercise, and the body
- To develop the art of the good question
- To develop advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking, research, and analysis, especially the identification, assessment and construction of arguments

#### **Course Evaluation:**

| Weekly writing assignments | 40% |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Body Project               | 15% |
| Participation              | 15% |
| Gym Class Participation    | 5%  |
| Gym Class Exercise         | 5%  |
| Take Home Exam             | 20% |

- To develop group work skills
  To experience the pleasures of sociological analysis

# **Course Outline**

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| Historical perspectives on fitness and bodies      | Physical literacy                               |  |
| Embodiment – thinking about movement beyond        | Physical activity – influences on participation |  |
| biology  |   |  |
| The meanings of exercise: Walking and swimming     | The individual focus in health promotion        |  |
| The meanings of exercise: Pleasure                 | Health as a super-value                         |  |
| Frameworks for understanding fitness - Normativity | Critical perspectives on physical activity      |  |
| Episodes in the history of PE: Colonialism and     | Obesity – science and politics                  |  |
| racialized bodies                                  |   |  |
| What does physical education do?                   | Presentations and wrap-up                       |  |