Over the past twenty years, scholars have investigated a wide range of issues regarding early modern representations of gender, status, race, and sexuality. As was appropriate for new fields of study, much of this work tended to focus on one or two discrete axes of identity—homoeroticism, for instance, or gender and nationhood—or to treat several modes of embodiment sequentially and independently. In this seminar, we will continue to explore the ways in which embodiment was experienced, represented, and imagined through ideologies and practices of gender, marriage, reproduction, and kinship; labor, rank, status, and violence; religious, political, ethnic, and national affiliation; health and sickness, pleasure and desire. Rather than respecting established conceptual parameters, however, our guiding question throughout will be: how do these various modes of embodiment interact, both in representation and lived experience? To what extent, for instance, do gender, status, and race together affect the expression of erotic desire? Can we speak simultaneously of classed and racialized sexualities? How did the labor one performed, along with the threat of sickness or violence, affect one’s pursuit of bodily pleasure? In addition to analyzing literary, medical, and/or visual representations—chosen by seminar participants from their own research projects—we will engage with historiographic and methodological questions: How do we know eroticism when we see it? To what extent is it possible to gain access to the material practices of sex? What kind of “evidence” of social practices are medical books, political satire, pastoral painting, or the language of bawdy?

1/29  Introduction

2/5  The Theories and Stakes of Intersectionality
Wendy Brown, “The Impossibility of Women’s Studies,” differences 9 (Fall 1997).

2/12 Figures of Difference and the Body Politic: Lindsay

2/19 Anatomical, Wounded, and Disabled Bodies: Elizabeth
Jonathan Sawday, “The Fate of Marsyas: Dissecting the Renaissance Body,” Renaissance Bodies: The Human Figure in English Culture, 1540-1660, eds. Lucy Gent and Nigel Llewellyn (Reaktion, 1990).


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2/26 **Prosthetic and Partial Bodies: Vin**


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3/4 **Case Study: Othello: Race-Religion-Gender-Sexuality: Ana**


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3/11 **Humoral Minds and Bodies: Early Modern Psychophysiology: Zack, Jennifer**


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3/18 **Material Bodies in a Sexual World: Sally, Cassie**


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3/25 **Pornography and the Pedagogy of Sex: Will, Tip**


Thomas Nashe, “The Choice of Valentines.”

Aretino? Jacob Giles?

4/1 **Medicine, Midwifery, Monsters: Kate, Patricia, Allison**


Something on monsters?