

MAY 2020

Body Revolution



Editor: Skylar McVicar

PERUVIAN WOMAN

Love All Humanity

My Humanities Experience

Starting Humanities as a first-year college student, I was confident in my previously acquired knowledge of the world and eager to learn more from my professors and peers. Little did I know that my entire understanding of identity and humanity would change. Now I am aware that our identity began forming before we were even born. The social factors that create history and determine your social position are formed way before birth. While growing-up different assumptions are made based on the conceptual schemas we form from our observations and the data we collect when interacting with others. Thus, we live in our own realities until we undergo a revolution of thought brought about by a clashing set of ideals. Over the past four months of college, I have undergone several personal revolutions and know my peers have as well. First of all, taking agency as our own sovereign entities separate from parental advice is a revolutionary act. For many of us, this is the first time we have to make life-changing decisions and face the consequences of our mistakes. Additionally, almost every interaction with a new person introduces us to a unique and potentially unfamiliar set of opinions and ideologies. For example, I am from a family that believes a couple should date, live together, and share bills before marriage. When I told this to other Humesters from the South, they were shocked that parents would encourage an unwed pair to live together. This is a revolution about a preconceived notion of relationships. It seems as though the phrase “you learn something new every day” is especially prevalent on-campus.

Defying Body Norms

One major theme in the Humanities course is defining who is human. Often, our outward appearance determines our level of humanity.

Because black people were unfairly held in slavery, their skin is seen as less desirable than white skin. Additionally, the media has set forth an unrealistic and unhealthy portrayal of male and female bodies in media that do not accurately represent the majority of the population. Since these body types have been the dominant standard for most of history, it is difficult and painful to revolt against these expectations.

