

**Anthropological Perspectives on the Human Body**  
**Ant M234T/Psy M282**  
**Fall, 2009 Thu 12-2:50PM**  
**310 Haines Hall**  
**Professor Carole H. Browner, Hanna Garth, Hannah Reiss**

**Contact information**

Email is usually the best way to get in touch: [browner@ucla.edu](mailto:browner@ucla.edu);  
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**Browner office locations: C8-151 Semel/304 HH; tels: 310/794-6299 (Semel) 310/206-7899 (Haines); 949/370-7075 (mobile). Office hrs: Mon 2-3 in Haines and by appt.**

**Course Description**

This seminar explores the ways that socio-cultural and political economic dynamics shape perceptions of and understandings about the human body and how, reciprocally, those perceptions and understandings influence social processes. Course materials come from non-Western and Western societies. Topics include: how social, cultural and political processes influence the multiplicity of ways we perceive our own bodies and those of others; body metaphors, narratives, and discourses; the body and the state, especially state-sponsored violence; reproduction; ingestion; bodily experience of illness and disability; and how sickness and disability challenge and alter perceptions of the body among those affected, those around them and the society at large. Of particular interest will be the dialectical nature of the diverse ways that human bodies are shaped, acted upon, and controlled and the nature of and sources of resistance.

**Requirements**

1. Class sessions will consist of group discussion based on the assigned readings, which are posted on the password-protected class website: <http://classes.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/09F-ANTHROM234T-1>. You are required to attend each class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them. **Please bring to class a one to two paragraph abstract of each selection** (alternately, you may want to write a short synthesizing commentary of the week's selections). The abstracts will not be graded nor circulated among seminar participants, but they are to be handed in at the end of each class and will count toward your final grade.

The abstract should include a succinct statement of the content of the reading, the questions it raised for you, and issues you would like discussed; you may comment critically on the readings if you choose. You may want to include in the abstract your thoughts on how the reading relates to research you've done,

other interests you have, or other readings for the course. The length of each abstract will likely vary according to how engaging you found the selection. Please also rate each reading on a scale of A - F on two criteria: how much you learned from the selection; how much you enjoyed reading it.

2. You are expected to choose a topic and week that relates to your own research. At the beginning of class that day, you will be asked to spend 10-15 minutes describing your research as it relates to the week's topic and readings, discussing how the readings were (or were not) relevant and helpful for your work, and then generally helping move along the broader discussion. You will not be responsible for facilitating the entire class meeting, and your introductory comments are not to be a summary of the readings. Instead this is an opportunity for you to bring your own data and larger research interests to the group and benefit from our feedback. We will make a preliminary plan for topic and week assignments during the first class meeting.

3. You are required to submit a **20-25-page written assignment** derived from some of the broad issues that orient the seminar. You may choose to write a paper based on field research, bibliographic work or some combination, or you may submit a draft of a research proposal or Ph.D. qualifying exam.

Your paper should be typed, double spaced, and have left and right margins of at least 1". It should be proofread and corrected prior to submission and submitted both on paper and by email attachment. Please use the style guide of the American Anthropologist or the Medical Anthropology Quarterly for footnotes and references.

Please submit a one-paragraph description of your paper topic by **October 15**. Papers are due at noon on **December 3** by email *and* in Carole's Haines mailbox. She will be happy to review and comment upon your paper's first draft, if you submit it no later than **November 17** (email attachment is fine).

4. Each week please bring to each class one item you've come across during the previous week (in a newspaper, on the internet, movies, TV, another class, etc.) that says something interesting to you about bodies in culture and society.

**No class November 26 (Thanksgiving) and December 3 (AAA Meetings).**

5. **Grading**

Abstracts and class discussion	50%
Term paper	50%

**An Incomplete (I) will be given only under exceptional circumstances. Late papers will be downgraded.**

## **SYLLABUS**

**SEPT 24**      **WEEK 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION:** Introduction, orientation to basic concepts, readings, course requirements, instructor and student, expectations, paper topics, etc.

**OCT 1**          **WEEK 2: THEORIES OF THE BODY**

Mauss, Marcel

2007 Techniques of the Body. *In Beyond the Body Proper*. Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar, eds. Durham: Duke University Press pp. 50-58.

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice

2007 From The Phenomenology of Perception. *In Beyond the Body Proper*. Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar, eds. Durham: Duke University Press pp. 133-149.

Jackson, Michael

1983 Knowledge of the Body. *Man* (n.s.) 18:327-345.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret M. Lock

1987 The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1): 6-41.

Csordas, Thomas J.

1990 Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology. *Ethos* 18(1): 5-47.

Sharp, Leslie

2000 The Commodification of the Body and its Parts. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29: 287-328.

**OCT 8**          **WEEK 3: THE BODY: REPRODUCTION, REPRODUCTIVE RELATIONS**

Browner, Carole and Carolyn F. Sargent

2010 Towards Global Anthropological Studies of Reproduction: Concepts, Methods, Theoretical Approaches. *In Reproduction, Globalization and the State*, Carole H. Browner and Carolyn F. Sargent, eds. Durham: Duke University Press.

Sawicki, Jana

- 1999 Disciplining Mothers: Feminism and the New Reproductive Technologies. *In Feminist Theory and the Body*, Janet Price and Margrit Schildrick, eds. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 190-202.

Martin, Emily

- 1991 The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotyped Male-Female Roles. *Signs* 16(3): 485-501.

Moore, Lisa Jean

- 2002 Extracting Men from Semen: Masculinity in Scientific Representations of Sperm. *Social Text* 73:1-46.

Gutman, Matthew

- 2010 Planning Men Out of Family Planning: A Case Study from Mexico *In* *Reproduction, Globalization and the State*, Carole H. Browner and Carolyn F. Sargent, eds. Durham: Duke University Press.

Ikemoto, Lisa C.

- 2009 Eggs as Capital: Human Egg Procurement in the Fertility Industry and the Stem Cell Research Enterprise. *Signs* 34(4): 763-782.

Fleuriet, K. Jill

- 2009 *La Tecnología y Las Monjitas: Constellations of Authoritative Knowledge at a Religious Birthing Center in South Texas*. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 23 (3): 212-234.

**OCT 15      WEEK 4: TOWARD PERFECT BODIES: Prenatal and Postnatal Imperatives**  
**Mara Buchbinder, Facilitator**

Buchbinder, Mara and Stefan Timmermans

- n.d. The Dream of the Perfect Child Revisited: Lessons from Expanded Newborn Screening. Unpublished ms.

Landsman, Gail

- 1998 Reconstructing Motherhood in the Age of 'Perfect' Babies: Mothers of Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities. *Signs* 24(1): 69-99.

Ivry, Tsipy

- 2009 The Ultrasonic Picture Show and the Politics of Threatened Life: Medical Anthropology Quarterly 23: 189-211.

Samerski, Silja

- 2009 Genetic Counseling and the Fiction of Choice: Taught Self-Determination as a New Technique of Social Engineering. Signs 34: 735-763.

Browner, Carole

- 2010 Lost in Translation: Lessons from California on the Implementation of State-Mandated Fetal Diagnosis in the Context of Globalization. *In* Reproduction, Globalization and the State, Carole H. Browner and Carolyn F. Sargent, eds. Durham: Duke University Press.

Bumiller, Kristin

- 2009 The Geneticization of Autism: From New Reproductive Technologies to the Conception of Genetic Normalcy. Signs 34(4): 783-804.

**OCT 22      Week 5: CONTROLLING BODIES: BODY PRESENTATION, MODIFICATION**

McDade, Thomas

- 1996 Prostates and Profits: The Social Construction of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia in American Men. Medical Anthropology 17(1): 1-22.

Mamo, Laura and Jennifer Ruth Fosket

- 2009 Scripting the Body: Pharmaceuticals and the (Re)Making of Menstruation Signs 34(4): 925-950.

Kaw, Eugenia

- 1993 Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery. Medical Anthropology Quarterly 7(1): 74-89.

Navarro, Mireya

- 2004 The Most Private of Makeovers. New York Times, November 28.

Saint Louis, Catherine

- 2009 Skin Deep: Do Women Like Men Quite That Clean Shaven? The New York Times, July 8.

Weiss, Meira  
1997 War Bodies, Hedonist Bodies: Dialectics of the Collective and the Individual in Israeli Society. *American Ethnologist* 24(4): 814-832.

Jacobson, Yehuda and Diana Luzzatto  
2004 Israeli Youth Body Adornments: Between Protest and Conformity. *Young* 12: 155.

**OCT 29      WEEK 6: CONTROLLING BODIES: BODIES AND INGESTION**  
**Hanna Garth, Facilitator**

Ohnuki-Tierney, E.  
1999 We Eat Each Other's Food to Nourish Our Body: The Global and the Local as Mutually Constituent Forces. Chapter 13 *In Food in Global History*, Raymond Grew, ed. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 240-272.

Pollan, Michael  
2009 Out of the Kitchen, Onto the Couch. *New York Times*, July 29.

Sobo, Elisa J.  
2000 The Sweetness of Fat: Health, Procreation, and Sociability in Rural Jamaica. *In The Visible Self: Global Perspectives on Dress, Culture and Society* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Eicher J. Evenson, S., & Lutz, H., eds. New York: Fairchild, pp. 384-88 (reprinted from N. Sault, ed., *Man Mirrors*, 1994, and C. Counihan and P. Van Esterik, eds., *Food and Culture: A Reader*, 1997, 2006).

Campos, Paul; Abigail Saguy; Paul Ernsberger; Eric Oliver; and Glenn Gaesser  
2006 The Epidemiology of Overweight and Obesity: Public Health Crisis or Moral Panic? *International Journal of Epidemiology* 35: 55-60.

Lester, Rebecca  
1997 The (Dis)embodied Self in Anorexia Nervosa. *Social Science and Medicine* 44(4): 479-489.

Benson, Peter  
2008 Good Clean Tobacco: Philip Morris, Biocapitalism, and the Social Course of Stigma in North Carolina. *American Ethnologist* 35(3): 357-379.

**NOV 5            WEEK 7: CONTROLLING BODIES: BODIES AND SOCIAL DISORDER**  
**Hannah Reiss, facilitator**

Rose, Nikolas and Carlos Novas

- 2004 Biological Citizenship *In* Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems, Ong, Aihwa and Collier, Stephen J. eds. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, pp. 439-463.

Ong, Aihwa

- 1990 State Versus Islam: Malay Families, Women's Bodies and the Body Politic in Malaysia. *American Ethnologist*. 17(2): 258-276.

Kroeger, Karen A.

- 2003 AIDS Rumors, Imaginary Enemies and the Body Politic in Indonesia. *American Ethnologist* 30(2): 243-257.

Kligman, Gail

- 1995 Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceaucescu's Romania. *In* Conceiving the New World Order. Faye Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 234-255.

Pedersen, Susan

- 2007 National Bodies, Unspeakable Acts: The Sexual Politics of Colonial Policy Making *In* Beyond the Body Proper, Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar, eds. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 330-346.

Price, Janet and Margrit Schildrick

- 1999 Mapping the Colonial Body: Sexual Economies and the State in Colonial India. *In* Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader, Price, Janet and Margrit Schildrick, eds. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 388-398.

**NOV 12            WEEK 8: CONTROLLING BODIES: STATE VIOLENCE**  
**Rebekah Park, facilitator**

James, Erical Caple

- 2004 The Political Economy of 'Trauma' in Haiti in the Democratic Era of Insecurity. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* 28: 127-49.

Moon, Claire

- 2009 Healing Past Violence: Traumatic Assumptions and Therapeutic Interventions in War and Reconciliation. *Journal of Human Rights* 8: 71-91.

Olujic, Maria B.

- 1998 Embodiment of Terror: Gendered Violence in Peacetime and Wartime in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Medical Anthropology* 12(1): 31-50.

Orozco-Suarez, Marcelo M.

- 2003 The Treatment of Children in the 'Dirty War': Ideology, State Terrorism and the Abuse of Children in Argentina. *In Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology*, Scheper Hughes, Nancy and Phillipe Bourgeois, eds. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 378-390.

Perelli, Carina

- 1994 *Memoria de Sangre: Fear, Hope and Disenchantment in Argentina. In Remapping Memory: The Politics of Time and Space*. Jonathan Boyarin ed. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press pp. 39-66.

**NOV 19      WEEK 9: WEARING BODIES DOWN: WORK AND THE BODY**

Lock, Margaret and Judith Farquhar

- 2007 Introduction: Capitalist Production or Accounting for Commodification of Bodily Life *In Beyond the Body Proper*. Margaret M. Lock and Judith Farquhar, eds. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 489-495.

Thompson, E. P.

- 2007 Time, Work-Discipline and Industrial Capitalism *In Beyond the Body Proper*. Margaret M. Lock and Judith Farquhar, eds. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 495-511.

Wacquant, Loïc

- 1995 Pugs at Work: Bodily Capital and Bodily Labor among Professional Boxers. *Body and Society* 1-1 (March): 65-94.

Mole, Noelle

- 2008 Leaving it on the Skin: Italian States, Working Illness. *American Ethnologist* 35(2): 189-210.



Bilefsky, Dan

2009 Wanted: Czech Nurses – Bonus: Free Breast Implants. *The Day*. June 14.

Schneider, Suzanne D.

2009 Radical Remedies: Women, Health, and the Micropolitics of Grassroots Organizing in Mexico. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 23(3): 235-256.

**NOV 26      NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**

**DEC 3        NO CLASS: AAA MEETINGS**