The Anthropology of the Human Body

Fall, 2005
Ant M234T/Psy M282
Thu 11AM-1:50PM
Professor C. H. Browner
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Course Description

This seminar explores the ways that socio-cultural and political 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. Among topics considered are: how society influences the ways we perceive our own bodies and those of others; cross-cultural variation in body metaphors, narratives, and discourses; the role culture plays in shaping the 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.

Requirements

1. The seminar's texts are:

Required

Rothman, Sheila M. and David J. Rothman

Frank, Gelya

Recommended

Shilling, Chris
2003    The Body and Social Theory. London: Sage. (any of the older editions is also fine)

For the first time, I am experimenting with not ordering the books for you but instead encouraging you to find copies at on-line second-hand bookstores such as Amazon.com, Addall.com, Half.com, Alibiris.com. We’re a small seminar and the books I’ve selected should have sufficient copies available for everyone who wants to purchase them. They have also been placed on reserve at the Research Library.

Additional readings are found on my password protected class website:
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/05F/anthrom234t-1/

2. Class sessions will consist of group discussion based on a book or group of readings. You are required to attend each class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them.
Please also come to class with a one to two paragraph abstract of each selection (alternately, you may want to write a short synthesizing commentary of the week’s selections). Although individual abstracts will not be graded, 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 undoubtedly 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.

3. You are also required to prepare a 20-25 page research paper and present a brief version of it during one of the last two class meetings. Topics should be drawn from the broad issues that orient the seminar. The paper may be based on field research, bibliographic work, or both. I prefer that the paper to be part of one of your ongoing research interests, if possible. Your paper should be typed, double spaced, and have left and right margins no less than 1”. It should be proofread and corrected prior to submission. Use the style 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 20. Papers are due in class December 8. I would be happy to review and comment upon your paper’s first draft. Please have it to me no later than November 20.

December 1st class is cancelled; I will hold an optional make-up meeting December 15 if enough of you want to attend.

4. Grading

| Abstracts and class discussion | 40% |
| Term paper                     | 60% |

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

SEPT 29  Introduction, orientation to basic concepts, course requirements, paper topics

Recommended

Shilling, Chris

Lock, Margaret

Blacking, John

OCT 6  BODY POLITICS

Required

Rosen, Jeffrey

Ehrenreich, Barbara

Harkin, Michael

McCallum, Cecilia

Sasson-Levy, Orna and Tamar Rapoport
Additional readings

Obermeyer, Carla Makhlouf

Chong, Jia-Rui

Lock, Margaret

Franco, Jean

Weiss, Meira

Rose, Nikolas

Comaroff, Jean

Crandon-Malamud, Libbett

Groneman, Carol

Henrad, J. C.
Jabobus, Mary et al.  

Lupton, Deborah  

Solomon, Alisa  

Crandon-Malamud, Libbett  

Stewart, Pamela J. and Andrew Strathern  

**OCT 13 THEORIES OF THE BODY**

**Required**

Schepers-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret M. Lock  

Turner, Bryan S.  

Frank, Arthur W.  

Shilling, Chris  

Clarke, Adele E., Janet K. Shim, Laura Mamo, Jennifer Ruth Fosket, and Jennifer R. Fishman  
**Additional Readings**

Halliburton, Murphy  

Haraway, Donna  
New York: Routledge. Review these

Wallace-Sanders, Kimberly, ed.  

Csordas, Thomas J.  

Kirmayer, Laurence J.  

Grosz, Elizabeth  

Jackson, Michael  

Scarry, Elaine  

Synnott, Anthony  

**OCT 20 TOWARD PERFECT BODIES**

**Required**

Rothman, Sheila M. and David J. Rothman  
Additional Readings

Davis, Kathy

Haiken, Elizabeth

Siebert, Charles

Bordo, Susan

Becker, Anne E.

Grealy, Lucy

Thompson, Becky W.

Gimlin, Debra

OCT 27 BODY IMAGES/IMAGINED BODIES

Required

Blake, C. F.

Mennell, Stephen
Lester, R.  

Udovitch, Mim  

Kulick, Don  

Jackson, Jean E.  

Additional Readings

Bastien, Joseph W.  

Garrett, Catherine J.  

Ekins, Richard and Dave King, eds.  

Gordon, Daniel  

Leonard, Lori  

Urla, Jacqueline and Alan C. Swedlund  
Mascia-Lees Frances E. and Patricia Sharpe, eds.  

Morgan, Kathryn Pauly  

Garfinkel, Harold  

Rogers, Mary F.  

Zimmerman, Don H.  
1992 They Were All Doing Gender, But They Weren't All Passing: Comment on Rogers. Gender and Society 6(2):192-198.

Rooks, N. M.  

Sault, Nicole, ed.  

The New York Times  

**NOV 3 BODY DISCOURSES, NARRATIVES, AND METAPHORS**

**Required**

Mogensen, Hanne Overgaard  

Weiss, Meira  
Marshall, Wende Elizabeth  

Wallis, Patrick and Brigitte Nerlich  

Gattuso, Suzy, Simone Fullagar, and Ilena Young  

Cresswell, Mark  

Additional Readings

Conrad, Peter and Susan Markens  

Simonds, Wendy  

Whitaker, Elizabeth D.  

McCallum, Cecilia  

Kane, Stephanie  

Jackson, Michael  
1983  Thinking through the Body: An Essay on Understanding Metaphor. Social Analysis  
14:127-149.
Lowy, Ilana and George Weisz

Dixon-Woods, Mary
2001 Writing Wrongs? An Analysis of Published Discourses about the Use of Patient Information Leaflets. Social Science and Medicine 52:1417-1432.

Lay, Mary M. Laura J. Clare Gravon, and Cynthia Myntti, eds.

Gordon, Deborah

Frankenberg, Ronald

King, Dixie L.

Machin, Barrie

Martin, Emily

Panourgia, E. Neni K.

Phillips, Marilynn J.
Rapp, Rayna  

Seidel, Gill  

Toombs, S. Kay  

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt  

Yeatman, Anna  

Zola, Irving Kenneth  

Petechsky, Rosalind Pollack  

**NOV 10  MEDICALIZED BODIES/GENETICIZATION PROCESSES**

**Required**

Davison, Charlie, Sally Macintyre and George Davey Smith  

Novas, Carlos and Nikolas Rose  

Daly, Emma  
Williams, Patricia J.

Becker, Gay, Anneliese Butler and Robert D. Nachtigall

Finkler, Kaja

Additional Readings

Quaid, Kimberly A.

Gaines, Atwood D.

Davison, Charlie

Richards, Martin

Rajan, Kaushik Sunder

Navarro, Mireya
Gladwell, Malcolm  

Browner, C. H. and Nancy Press  

Kaw, Eugenia  

Braslow, Joel  

Giacomini, Mita  

Kimbrell, Andrew  

McDade, Thomas  

Young, Katharine  

Young, Iris Marion  

Jordan, Brigitte  

Browner, Carole  
Jordan, Brigitte

Reiser Stanley Joel

Davis-Floyd, Robbie E.

Mitchell, Lisa M. and Eugenia Georges

Sandelowski, Margarete

Williams, Simon J.

Franklin, Sarah

Oudshoorn, Nelly

Sanner, Margareta

Thorpe, Karen, et al.
Becker, Gay, ed.  
1995 Cultural Perspectives on Organ Transplantation. Special Issue of Medical Anthropology Quarterly 9(3):335-417

Fox, Renée C. and Judith P. Swazey  

Armstrong, David  

**NOV 17 BODY PRESENTATION**

**Required**

Frank, Gelya  

_Discussion facilitated by Professor Frank, Department of Anthropology, USC._

**Additional Readings**

Garland-Thomson, Rosemarie  

Kudlick, Catherinem  

Hubbard, Ruth  

Lane, Harlan  

Wendell, Susan  
Lane, Sandra D. et al.

Bogdan, Robert and Steven J. Taylor

**NOV 24 and DEC 1** Class cancelled

**DEC 8 and DEC 15** Student paper presentations