

Eastern Illinois University
Anthropology 3612 The Body in Anthropological Perspective
Fall 2016
Sec 001: TR 11-12:15

Catalog Description: This course explores the human body from an anthropological perspective, focusing on the complex ways in which biology and culture interact to produce the human person as a social entity. The course will consider phenomenological and semiotic theories of the body across a range of topics, including the senses, emotion, body movement, dress, body modification, body image, fat/body size, pain, pleasure, sexuality, gender, reproduction, social power, health illness, disability, aging, and death. Additionally, the course will present sensory ethnographic methods as tools for conducting research on lived bodily experience. **(3 credits)**

Classroom: Blair Hall 3103
Office: Blair Hall 3140
Office Hours: TR 12:30-3 PM & by appt

Instructor: Dr. Angela Glaros
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The body is man's first and most natural instrument.

--Marcel Mauss

The surface of the body, as the common frontier of society, the social self, and the psycho-biological individual, becomes the symbolic stage upon which the drama of socialization is enacted...

--Terence Turner

The question of the body requires more than reconciling theory with practice. It brings with it the difficulty of people both having and being bodies...

--Margaret Lock

Introduction

What can anthropology tell us about the body? Is it an instrument or an artifact of culture? Should we think of the human body as the site of lived experience, a symbolic representation, or both? And how can we best approach these questions through our own embodied cultural practices (which include reading, writing, and research, as well as dancing, walking, eating, sleeping, etc.)? This course will not necessarily answer such questions definitively; rather, it will help us to refine them, to ask better questions, and to think about what anthropology contributes to our lives and how we live them.

Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of scholarly approaches to the body from an anthropological perspective. **(Critical Thinking)**.
2. Articulate the anthropological approach to the body and social personhood. **(Critical Thinking; Writing and Critical Reading)**
3. Apply the theory and methods of anthropology to a sensory ethnography of an embodied social practice or phenomenon of the student's choosing. **(Critical Thinking; Writing and Critical Reading; Speaking & Listening)**

Assigned Readings

Lock, Margaret and Judith Farquhar, eds. 2007. *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Kulick, Don. 1998. *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture Among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lamb, Sarah. 2000. *White Saris and Sweet Mangoes: Aging, Gender, and Body in North India*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Additional readings will be posted from time to time on D2L. You are responsible for reading these **before class** on the date on which they appear on the syllabus. We will also view several films and short videos. You should treat these the same way you do readings—as a source of knowledge and key concepts that you will be responsible for understanding.

Assessment

The following will be used to assess your grade in this course.

Participation 100

Grade is based on attendance and a combination of the following:

- Pop quizzes/in-class exercises to be given at professor's discretion;
- Reading notes filled out during class time, based on the assigned reading for that day or on a film or other presentation from the previous class day;
- Participation in oral discussion of course readings and other materials each class day.

It is not possible to make up class participation activities for days on which you were absent. However, ****only your best 20**** periods' worth of participation will count toward your final grade.

Sensory Ethnography Project 100

A project analyzing and describing some aspect of culture through sensory experience. The end result can be a written paper (5 pages) or a combination of a shorter essay and multiple media components, including photos, video, sound, artwork, etc.; whatever your choice of format, you will also include several sets of field notes from your experiences.

Exams (Midterm and final) 100

Exams will cover material drawn from readings, course lectures, films, in-class exercises, and any other material covered in class. Exam format will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions. Each exam is worth 50 points.

Total 300

Grading Scale

Final course grades will use a percentage scale as follows:

90% and above (269.5-300 pts)	A
80-89.5% (239.5-268.4 pts)	B
70-79.5% (209.5-239.4 pts)	C
60-69.5% (179.5-209.4 pts)	D
Below 60% (below 179.4 pts)	F

Class Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Wk	Date	Topic/Assignment	Readings (to be read before class)
1	Aug 23 Aug 25	Introduction & Overview Embodiment and/as Knowing; key terms	Kensinger (D2L); Lock & Farquhar, 1-15
2	Aug 30 Sep 1	The Body in Social Theory “	Lock & Farquhar, 19-40 Lock & Farquhar, 50-82 Deadline to drop class with no charge Sep 2
3	Sep 6 Sep 8	Discourses of the Body “	Lock & Farquhar, 107-111; 133-149 Lock & Farquhar, 176-184
4	Sep 13 Sep 15	Senses “	Seremetakis (D2L) Samuels, et al (D2L)
5	Sep 20 Sep 22	Sensory Ethnography “	Pink (D2L) <i>Travesti</i> , intro and chap. 1
6	Sep 27 Sep 29	Bodies in Motion Body Image/Fat	Lock & Farquhar, 241-258; <i>Travesti</i> , chap. 2 Kulick (D2L)
7	Oct 4 Oct 6	Body Modification/Ornamentation Dress	<i>Travesti</i> , chap. 3 Lock & Farquhar, 83-103
8	Oct 11 Oct 13	Midterm Exam Pleasure	<i>Travesti</i> , chap. 4
9	Oct 18 Oct 20	Film: <i>G-Spotting</i> Genital Cutting and Relativism	Cliteracy (D2L) Bell (D2L)
10	Oct 25 Oct 27	Sex/Gender “	<i>Travesti</i> , chap. 5
11	Nov 1 Nov 3	Reproduction Power	Lock & Farquhar, 417-427 McDonald (D2L) Deadline to withdraw with W grade: Nov 4
12	Nov 8 Nov 10	Health/Illness Health/Illness	Lock & Farquhar, 451-467; <i>White Saris</i> , intro Stoller (D2L)
13	Nov 15 Nov 17	Aging “ ** Thanksgiving Break Nov 21-25**	<i>White Saris</i> , chaps. 1-2 <i>White Saris</i> , chaps. 3-4
14	Nov 29 Dec 1	Death Sensory ethnography projects due “	Finish <i>White Saris</i> Lock & Farquhar, 640-657; Conklin (D2L)
15	Dec 6 Dec 8	Student-chosen topic! Student-chosen topic!	
Dec 12		Final Exam 10:15-12:15	

Policies

You are responsible for reading and following the policies below.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct: <http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>. Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Assignments

Because of our small class size, written assignments should be submitted in hard copy, at the start of class on the day they are due. As a precaution, however, always save a backup copy of your work.

I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929. The writing center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Your written assignments must reflect your own original work. I will not tolerate plagiarism. If you misrepresent another's work as your own (from the internet, Wikipedia, or anywhere else), you risk receiving an F for the entire semester, not to mention incurring other disciplinary action. I'd much rather learn from your original work than put us through this process.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are part of your course grade. It will not be possible to succeed in this class without regular attendance, as much of your exam material is drawn from class lectures and discussions, and I do not put lecture notes or Powerpoint slides on D2L. If you know you will miss a class in advance, please arrange to get notes from a classmate. Once you have gotten the notes you missed, I will gladly meet with you to answer any additional questions you may have.

As part of your participation grade, you will complete reading notes at the start of most classes. I will distribute a one-page form for you to briefly summarize the main ideas of the reading assigned for that class day (or a film viewed in the previous class), along with your impressions about the material and any keywords/questions you identified. Please bring your reading, and any notes you took while reading (if you don't normally take notes while reading, I'd recommend adding this to your repertoire), to class each day so that you can refer to them in your notes. Since we will only allot a few minutes of class time to this task, you will not be able to write good notes without having already read the assigned reading. Reading notes will be graded on a "check plus," "check," and "check minus" scale, and returned to you for your use in studying for exams.

We will also do pop quizzes or other types of graded in-class exercises from time to time in lieu of reading notes. It is not possible to make up these participation activities if you are absent. However, you will only be graded on your best 20 days' worth of participation at the end of the semester.

Citation

Whenever you refer to published sources in your papers, you **must** cite them in the body of your paper, as well as reference them in a bibliography. If you do not already have a citation style for your major, please use AAA citation style (<http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>; this link is also on D2L under Resources). If you are still unsure how to properly cite or reference published works in your writing, please see me.

Classroom Environment & Communication

I encourage frank, open and *respectful* discussions about issues relevant to class topics. If you have questions, comments, or interesting bits of information, please feel free to share these during class time. I will act as a moderator to make sure that everyone gets a chance to chime in and that a variety of perspectives are heard.

Please talk to me *right away* about classroom issues, subjects you don't quite understand, or difficulties you are having with an assignment. You can come to my office hours, make an appointment, or send me an e-mail. The sooner we address your issue, the sooner it can be remedied. **Note:** please use Panthermail to contact me, **not** the D2L e-mail. You'll get a quicker response if you send directly to me at acglaros@eiu.edu.

Electronics Policy

This class is a communal effort, and requires not just your attendance, but also your *presence*. To that end, I ask that you do not use electronic devices in class, unless you are authorized to do so in order to look up a relevant term or concept as part of a class discussion or exercise. If you receive or are expecting an urgent message (related to a loved one's health, child care arrangements, etc.), please step outside the classroom to do so. Staying present in class will enhance not just your own educational experience, but that of your classmates (we're all in this together). In fact, you may come to enjoy the intense focus of a distraction-free class period! Recent research suggests that taking notes on a laptop can actually hinder learning. [Fried, Carrie B. "In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning." *Computers & Education* 50.3 (2008): 906.]

Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP)

Your class papers (750 words or longer) are eligible for the Electronic Writing Portfolio, or EWP. For more information on the EWP and for submission instructions, visit <http://www.eiu.edu/assess/ewpmain.php>. EWP submissions should be submitted to the EWP website by the last class day.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will **not** be assigned in this course.

Facebook Group

Please join the Anthropology@EIU Facebook Group! This group is for current and past students of anthropology at EIU, and relevant news items, discussion topics, and upcoming events are posted regularly there.

Late Work

Assignments received after the due date will lose 5 percentage points for each day missed (including weekends).

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

**Building Fire Statement**

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the progress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Medical Emergency Statement

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.