

## **Anthropology of the Body and Embodiment**

070: 603

Prof. Fran Mascia-Lees  
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Spring 2013

Class meeting time: 10:55am-1:55pm

### **Offices and Appointments:**

- Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm in RAB 313, Douglass
- Other Appointments: If you need an appointment with me outside my office hours, please email me, but it may have to be in my CAC office (Executive Dean's Office, 77 Hamilton St.).

### **Course Description**

Once the province of medical science and certain schools of philosophy, “the body” emerged in the late 1970s as a central site from which scholars across the humanities and social sciences questioned the ontological and epistemological basis of almost all forms of inquiry. In anthropology, “the body” became such a central concept that by the mid-1980s, its study burgeoned into a fully formed subfield, “the anthropology of the body.” For many anthropologists at the time, especially feminist anthropologists, the questions of power and oppression that were on their agenda could not be addressed without first challenging ideologies that naturalized sex, gender, and racial differences through discourses and representations of the body that privileged some interests over others especially within a framework of dichotomies: for example, mind/body, subject/object, male/female, self/other, culture/nature, and civilized/primitive. At the same time, medical anthropologists, imbricated in this same agenda in multiple ways, revealed how conceptions of the body were central to substantive inquiries in medical anthropology and also began the work of problematizing “the body.” Since then, “the body” has come to be understood as simultaneously subject and object, meaningful and material, individual and social and has served as the basis of a stunningly large number of inquiries in the discipline. It continues to be a fertile site from which anthropologists mount refutations of abstract, universalizing models and ideologies and interrogate operations of power and possibilities for agency and political change both theoretically and in specific ethnographic contexts. This course simultaneously reflects this history of inquiry and covers the most current approaches, insights, and conceptualizations of the body in anthropology and related fields, illuminating the newest arenas in which it is being investigated, specifically the paradigmatic shift toward questions of embodiment and interest in the senses, emotion, and affect as essential to lived experience.

### **Required Books**

- Mascia-Lees, Frances E., ed. *A Companion to the Anthropology of the Body and Embodiment*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Companion)

**NOTE: I HAVE NEGOTIATED A SPECIAL PRICE FOR THIS OTHERWISE EXPENSIVE VOLUME. YOU CAN GET A DISCOUNTED VERSION AT**

**<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-815323.html>**

- Taussig, Michael. *Beauty and the Beast*. University of Chicago Press, 2012.

## **Requirements**

### Weekly Reading Critiques and Class Discussion 60% of grade

You are required to prepare 11 weekly critiques (3 page at most!) based on the reading of typically 7-8 articles a week. These should demonstrate your creative, critical integration and evaluation of ideas from the reading materials. You will be expected to read your critiques in class. Critiques will be used to facilitate our discussion of the material, so please make them interesting and lively.

There is no one acceptable form of critique. You can, for example, synthesize all the readings from a week into an overview of a type of approach; draw on one main idea from one reading and assess it in terms of the other readings for that class; use the articles to counter or elaborate on an argument, idea, or approach raised in earlier weeks; apply the week's approaches to a concrete object, case, context, etc. What is important is that your critique address ideas from **most, if not all**, of the articles and demonstrate your critical engagement with some of the main ideas being discussed. If you do not come prepared to class with your critique, you will receive a grade of zero for that day.

You are expected to participate actively in the discussion of the reading material in each class, demonstrating your knowledge of, and critical thinking about, the material covered. Participation should go above and beyond the reading of your critique in class and should involve careful listening and generous responses to others' critiques and ideas.

### Final Paper 40% of grade

You are required to write a research paper of at least 15, but no more than 20, pages excluding references (12 point type, double spaced, one inch margins) on a topic of interest related to the course. Please email me your topic and preliminary ideas by **February 19, 2013**. The final version of your paper is due to me electronically by 5pm on **April 23, 2013**. I will *not* accept a late paper (no excuses, technological or otherwise). We will discuss your papers the last day of class.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are required to attend all class meetings (only one absence is allowable, and this only with a legitimate excuse such as serious illness). If you miss more than one class, you will jeopardize your standing in the course and may be asked to withdraw from it.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. APPROACHES TO THE BODY AND EMBODIMENT

Jan. 22 **Introduction**

overview of course, requirements, etc.

Jan. 29 **Dualisms and Anthropological Bodies**

- Csordas, Thomas J. The Body's Career in Anthropology. In *Anthropological Theory Today*, edited by Henrietta L. Moore. Polity Press, pp. 172-205, 1999.
- Descartes, Rene. Second Meditation: Of the Nature of the Human Mind; and that it is Easier to Know than the Body. <http://homepage.mac.com/jholbo/writings/meditations/second.html>.
- Douglas, Mary. The Two Bodies. In *Natural Symbols: Explorations in Cosmology*. Pantheon Books, p. 93-112, 1970.
- Jackson, Jean. Pain and Bodies. (Companion)
- Latour, Bruno. Do you believe in Reality? In *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar. Duke University Press, 2007.
- Martin, Emily. Mind-Body Problems. *American Ethnologist* 27(3):569-590, 2000.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock. The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (1)1:6-41, 1987.
- Turner, Terrence. The Body beyond the Body: Social, Material and Spiritual Dimensions of Bodiliness. (Companion)

Feb. 5 **Foucault: Disciplined/Docile Bodies and the Nature of Biopower/Biopolitics**

- Bartky, Sandra. Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power. In *Feminism and Foucault*, edited by Irene Diamond and Lee Quinby. Northeastern, pp. 61-86, 1988.
- Butler, Judith. 1989. Foucault and the Paradox of Bodily Inscriptions. <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/judith-butler/articles/foucault-and-the-paradox-of-bodily-inscriptions/>
- Foucault, Michel. Part III: Discipline. In *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Vintage, pp. 135-230 ONLY, 1979.
- Foucault, Michel. Body/Power. In *Power/Knowledge*. Pantheon, pp. 55-62, 1972.
- Horn, David. Performing Criminal Anthropology: Science, Popular Wisdom, and the Body. In *Anthropologies of Modernity: Foucault, Governmentality, and Life Politics*, edited by J. X. Inda, Blackwell, pp. 135-157, 2005. [file:///Users/fmascia/Desktop/Horn%20Anthropologies\\_of\\_Modernity\\_Foucault\\_Governmentality\\_and\\_Life\\_Politics.html](file:///Users/fmascia/Desktop/Horn%20Anthropologies_of_Modernity_Foucault_Governmentality_and_Life_Politics.html)
- Mascia-Lees, Fran and Pat Sharpe. The Marked and the Un(re)marked: Tattoo and Gender in Theory and Narrative. In *Tattoo, Torture, Mutilation, and Adornment*. SUNY Press, 145-170, 1992.
- Rabinow, Paul and Nicholas Rose. Biopower Today. *BioSocieties* 1:195-217, 2006.

Feb. 12 **The Semiotic Body: Writing (on/with/through) the Body**

- Bordo, Susan. Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture. In *Unbearable Weight*. University of California Press, pp.139-164, 1993.

- Butler, Judith. "Body Inscriptions/Performative Subversions." In *Feminist Theory and the Body*, Routledge, pp. 416-422, 1992.
- Freud, S. Fragment of Analysis of a Case of Hysteria (Dora). In *The Freud Reader*, W.W. Norton, pp. 172-238, 1989.
- Hoffman, Ann G. Is Psychoanalysis a Poetics of the Body? *American Imago* 63(4): 395-422, 2006
- Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Patricia Sharpe. Body as Text. In *Taking a Stand in a Postfeminist World*, SUNY Press, pp. 153-166, 2000.
- Scarry, Elaine. The Structure of Torture: The Conversion of Real Pain into the Fiction of Power. In *The Body in Pain: the Making and Unmaking of the World*, Oxford University Press, pp. 27-59, 1985.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. Nervosa. In *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar. Duke University Press, pp. 459-467, 2007.

Feb. 19 **Techniques of the Body and Self: The French Tradition**

- Bourdieu, Pierre. "Structures, Habitus, Practices." In *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford University Press, pp. 78-95, 1980.
- Foucault, M. Technologies of the Self, 1988  
<http://foucault.info/documents/foucault.technologiesOfSelf.en.html>
- Ingold, Tim and Jo Lee Vergunst. Introduction. In *Ways of Walking: Ethnography and Practice on Foot*, edited by Tim Ingold and Jo Lee Vergunst, Ashgate, pp. 1-20, 2008.
- Mauss, Marcel. Techniques of the Body. In *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar. Duke University Press, pp. 50-68, 2007.
- Warnier, Jean-Pierre. 2007. The Human Flesh. In *The Pot-King: The Body and Technologies of Power*. Kononklijke Press, pp. 1-40, 2007.
- Warnier, Jean-Pierre. A Praxeological Approach to Subjectivation in a Material World. *Journal of Material Culture* 6(1), 2001.
- **TOPIC OF FINAL PAPER DUE TO ME ELECTRONICALLY BY 5PM**

Feb. 26 **Cultural/Feminist/Corporeal Phenomenologies and the Embodiment Turn in Anthropology**

- Alcoff, Linda. The Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment. In *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*. Oxford UP, pp. 179-194, 2006.
- Csordas, Thomas. Embodiment: Agency, Sexual Difference, and Illness. (Companion)
- Csordas, Thomas. Somatic Modes of Attention. *Cultural Anthropology* 8(2): 135-156, 1993.
- Desjarlais, Robert and C. Jason Throop. Phenomenological Approaches in Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 40:87-102, 2011.
- Grosz, Elizabeth. Lived Bodies: Phenomenology and the Flesh. In *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*, Indiana University Press, 1994.
- Howe, P. David. Sorting Bodies: Sensuous, Lived and Impaired. (Companion)
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. The Phenomenology of Perception. In *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar. Duke University Press, pp. 133-149, 2007.
- Young, Iris Marion. Throwing like a Girl: a Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality. In *Throwing like a Girl*, pp. 27-45, 2005.

## II. THE SENSIBLE/SENSING BODY

### March 5 Sensing the World

- Chau, Adam Yuet. Introduction: The Sensorial Production of the Social. *Ethnos* 73(4): 485-504.
- Classen, Constance. Foundations for an Anthropology of the Senses. *International Social Science Journal* 153: 401-412, 1997.
- Hirschkind, Charles. Introduction. In *The Ethical Soundscape: Cassette Sermons And Islamic Counterpublics*, Columbia University Press, pp. 1-31, 2006.
- Howe, David. Polisenorality (Companion).
- Jackson, Deborah Davis. Scents of Place: The Displacement of a First Nations Community in Canada. *American Anthropologist*, 113(4):606–618, 2011.
- Mol, Annemarie. Tasting Food: Tasting between the Laboratory and Clinic. (Companion)
- Serematakis, C. Nadia. The Memory of the Senses, Part I: Marks of the Transitory. In *The Senses Still*, edited by C. Nadia Serematakis. The University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-18, 1994.
- Stoller, Paul and Cheryl Olkes. The Taste of Ethnographic Things. In *The Taste of Ethnographic Things*, University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 15-36, 1989.

### March 12 Feeling the World: Affect, Emotion, Touch, and Movement

- Blackman, Lisa. 2008. Affect, Relationality and the “Problem of Personality.” *Theory, Culture and Society* 25(1):23-48.
- Clough, Patricia. 2008. The Affective Turn: Political Economy, Biomedicine and Bodies. *Theory, Culture and Society* 25(1):1-22.
- Ghannam, Farha. Mobility, Liminality, and Embodiment in Urban Egypt. *American Ethnologist* 38(4):790-800, 2011.
- Mazarella, William. Affect: What is it Good For? In *Enchantments of Modernity: Empire, Nation, Globalization*, edited by Saurabh Dube, Routledge, pp. 291-309, 2009.
- McDonald, Emily. Bodies-in-Motion: Experiences of Momentum in Transnational Surgery. (Companion)
- Navaro-Yashin, Yael. Affective Spaces, Melancholic Objects. In *The Make-Believe Space: Affective Geography in a Postwar Polity*. Duke, pp. 161-175, 2012.
- Paterson, Mark. Affecting Touch: Flesh and Feeling With. In *The Senses of Touch: Haptics, Affects, and Technologies*, Berg, pp. 147-172, 2007.
- Pedwell Carolyn and Anne Whitehead. Affecting Feminism: Questions of Feeling in Feminist Theory. *Feminist Theory* 13:115-129, 2012.

### March 16-24 Spring Break

### March 26 Embodied Ways of Knowing

- Downey, Greg. Seeing with a ‘sideways glance’: Visuomotor ‘knowing’ and the plasticity of perception:  
[http://mq.academia.edu/GDowney/Papers/320729/Seeing\\_Without\\_Knowing\\_Learning\\_With\\_the\\_Eyes\\_Visuomotor\\_Knowingand\\_the\\_Plasticity\\_of\\_Perception](http://mq.academia.edu/GDowney/Papers/320729/Seeing_Without_Knowing_Learning_With_the_Eyes_Visuomotor_Knowingand_the_Plasticity_of_Perception)
- Geurts, Kathryn. Is there a Sixth Sense? **and** Toward an Understanding of Anlo Ways of Being in the World. In *Culture and the Senses: Bodily Ways of Knowing in an African Community*, University of California Press, pp. 3-20 and 11-143, 2002.
- Kidron, Carol A. Embodied Legacies of Genocide. (Companion)

- Lancaster, Roger. When I was a Girl: Notes on Contrivance. (Companion)
- Marchand, Trevor. Muscles, Morals, and Mind. *British Journal of Educational Studies* 56(3):245-271, 2008.
- Myers, Natasha and Joe Dumit. Haptic Creativity and the Mid-embodiments of Experimental Life. (Companion)
- Okely, Judith. Fieldwork Embodied. *Sociological Review*, 55(s1):65-79, 2007.
- Wilson, Elizabeth. The Brain in the Gut. In *Psychosomatic: Feminism and the Neurological Body*, pp. 31-48.

**Fanon (is in dialogue with M-P in “The Lived Experience of the Black”**

### III. COMMODIFIED, AESTHETICIZED, MEDICALIZED, AND VULNERABLE BODIES

#### April 2 Colonial/Capitalist Productions of the Body

- Boddy, Janice. Bodies under Colonialism. (Companion)
- Freeman, Carla. Embodying and Affecting Neoliberalism. (Companion).
- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook. In *Beyond the Body Proper*, edited by Margaret Lock and Judith Farquhar. Duke University Press, pp. 113-129, 2007.
- Willis, Susan. Work(ing) Out. In *A Primer for Daily Life*. Routledge, pp. 62-85, 1991.
- Comaroff, John and Jean. Bodily Reform as Historical Practice. In *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination*. Westview, pp. , 69-94, 1992.
- Ramos-Zayas, Ana Yolanda. Learning Affect/Embodying Race (Companion)
- Fassin, Didier. To Do Races With Bodies. (Companion)
- Stoler, Ann Laura. Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender and Morality in the Making of Race. In *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power*, University of California Press, pp. 41-78, 2002.

#### April 9 Bodies and Aesthetics

- Edmonds, Alexander. “The Poor have the Right to be Beautiful”: Cosmetic Surgery in Neoliberal Brazil. *Journal of The Royal Anthropological Institute*. 13(2): 363-381, 2007.
- Gilman, Sander. The Racial Nose. In *Making the Body Beautiful: A Cultural History of Aesthetic Surgery*. Princeton University Press, pp. 85-118, 1999.
- Linke, Uli. White Skin/Aryan Aesthetics. In *German Bodies: Race and Representation after Hitler*. Routledge, 27-114, 1999.
- Mascia-Lees, Frances E. Aesthetic Embodiment and Commodity Culture. (Companion)
- Taussig, Michael. *Beauty and the Beast*. University of Chicago Press, 2012.

#### April 16 Bodies of Science, Biomedicine, Technology

- Boellstorff, Tom. Placing the Virtual Body: Avatar, Chora, Cypherg. (Companion)
- Wentzell, Emily and Marcia Inhorn. The Male Reproductive Body. (Companion).
- Jones, Nora. Embodied Ethics: From the Body as Specimen and Spectacle to the Body as Patient. (Companion)

- Lock, Margaret. Embodying Molecular Genomics. (Companion)
- Morgan, Lynn. Fetal Bodies, Undone. (Companion)
- Sobchack, Vivien. A Leg to Stand On: Prosthetics, Metaphor and Materiality. In *Carnal Thoughts*, California UP, pp. 205-225, 2004.
- Sharp, Lesley. Hybrid Bodies of the Scientific Imaginary. (Companion)
- Yates-Doerr, Emily. Bodily Betrayal: Love and Anger in the Time of Epigenetics. (Companion)

April 23 **Suffering, Dying, and Dead Bodies**

- Auyero, Javier and Debrah Swistun. Introduction. In *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown*, Oxford UP, pp. 1-20, 2009.
- Bakare-Yusel, Bibi. The Economy of Violence: Black Bodies and the Unspeakable Terror. In *Feminist Theory and the Body*, edited by Janet Price and Margrit Shildrick. Routledge, pp. 311-323, 1999.
- Biehl, J. Life of the Mind. *American Ethnologist* 31( 4): 475-496, 2004.
- Daniel, Valentine E. The Individual in Terror. In *Embodiment and Experience: the Existential Ground of Culture*, edited by Thomas J. Csordas. Cambridge UP, pp. 229-247, 1994.
- Magaña, Rocio. The Deadly Display of Border Politics. (Companion)
- Rouse, Carolyn. If She's a Vegetable, We'll be her Garden: Embodiment, Transcendence and Citations of Competing Cultural Metaphors in the Case of a Dying Child. *American Ethnologist* 31(4): 514-529, 2004.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. Body in Tatters: Dismemberment, Dissection, and the Return of the Repressed. (Companion)
- Williams, Simon. Vulnerable/Dangerous Bodies? The Trials and Tribulations of Sleep. *Sociological Review*. 55(s1):142-155, 2007.
- **No critique due**
- **FINAL PAPER DUE TO ME ELECTRONICALLY BY 5PM**

Apr. 30 **Discussion of Final Papers**