

Anthro 134F (60200):

Anthropology of the Body

Course Description and Objectives

This course examines human bodies as the products of both biology and culture, exploring relationships among mind, body, society, and politics in a variety of times and places.

At the beginning of the course, we will seek to understand the experience of living in and encountering the world through our bodies. We will critique notions of the body as a natural, universal object, and will consider a variety of ways in which social and symbolic relationships are both shaped by and become inscribed on the body.



In the second part of the course, we will analyze the regulation and control of bodies. We will examine the ways in which people living in non-normative bodies are subject to and resist mechanisms of power

and will then discuss the commodification of bodies and the treatment of human remains.

Finally, we end the course by exploring the effects of changing technologies and medical practices on the way we inhabit and understand our bodies.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- ◆ Analyze ways in which the human body both shapes and is shaped by sociocultural, historical, and political processes.
- ◆ Identify and critically evaluate key questions and theoretical approaches used in the anthropological study of the body.

PROFESSOR INFO	TA INFO	TIME & LOCATION	COURSE MATERIALS
Angela C. Jenks, Ph.D. Office: SBSG 3304 ajenks@uci.edu 949-824-3188 Office hours: Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:30pm or by appointment	Emily Matteson ematteso@uci.edu Office hours: TBA	Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:50pm Room: SSL 290	Murphy, Robert. 2001. <i>The Body Silent</i> . ISBN: 0393320421 Greenhalgh, Susan. 2015. <i>Fat-Talk Nation</i> . ISBN: 080145395X Sharp, Lesley. 2006. <i>Strange Harvest</i> . ISBN: 0520247868 Website: https://eee.uci.edu/16f/60200

Course Requirements

Lecture Attendance & Activities (5% of grade)

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session.

There will be various activities throughout the quarter. These may include quizzes, reflections, film viewing guides, or other activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted, and missing more than one activity will have a negative effect on your grade in the class.

All lecture slides will be posted on the course website, though many of them contain images rather than text. Please come to class prepared to take notes.

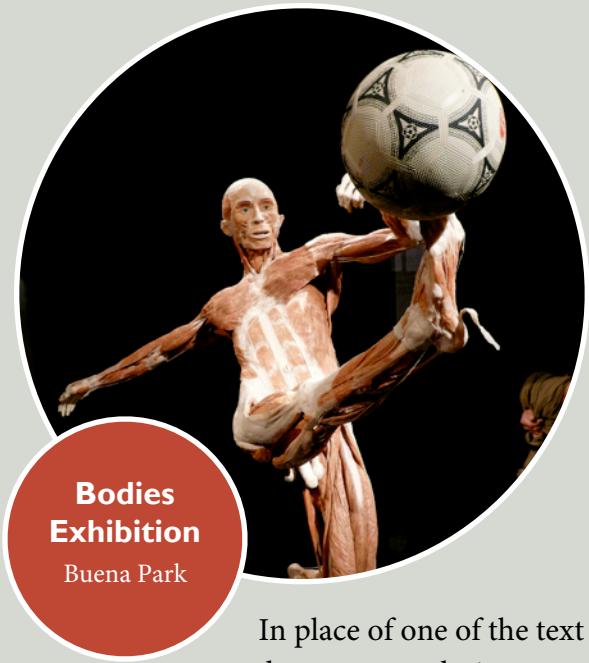
Discussion Participation (15% of grade)

Discussion sections are an important component of the course

and offer opportunities for further learning. You are required to participate in **AT LEAST SIX (6)** discussions throughout the quarter. Only one discussion each week will count toward your grade; no make-ups are possible. Discussions will meet in person beginning week 2.

Guided Analyses (15% of grade)

Guided reading analyses will be required for each of the **THREE** books used in this class. This assignment is designed to help you identify and reflect upon the main arguments, concepts, assumptions, and structures of the longer readings. Analyses will include open-ended questions that should be answered online.



Bodies
Exhibition
Buena Park

In place of one of the text analyses, one analysis may focus on the Bodies Exhibition (currently in Buena Park). We will be discussing the display of plastinated cadavers in class, and the assignment questions will guide you through a critical analysis and reflection on this exhibit. Additional information about the exhibit will be posted on the course EEE site.

Missed or Late Work

You are responsible for all material covered in the course. Lecture activities can not be made up, but missing one lecture activity will not affect your grade.

Make-up exams will be given only in extraordinary and well-documented situations. All other assignments will lose 5 points for each day of lateness (including weekends, holidays, etc.).

Grade Appeals

Your final grade is based on the total points you earned during the quarter. No individual extra credit is given. Requests for a regrade should be submitted in writing within 48 hours of receiving the grade. You must submit your original graded assignment and a detailed written explanation of how your work meets the requirements of the assignment/rubric.

Course Requirements, continued

Exams (35% of grade)

There will be one in-class midterm and a final exam. Exams may include multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essay questions related to assigned readings, lectures, and discussions. A study guide will be distributed one week before each exam.

Make-up exams will only be available in extraordinary and well-documented situations.

Research Project (30% of grade)

For this research project, you will engage in a new-to-you form of bodily practice throughout the quarter. For example, you might choose to take a class in yoga, tai-chi, meditation, aerobics, a martial art, a form of dance, or ASL; you might engage in a new exercise or sport such as running, swimming, soccer, or weight training; or you might participate in a new healing practice such as massage or acupuncture. Participate in at least FIVE (5) sessions over the course of the quarter, keeping field notes to record your observations and experiences.

Complete the project in three stages:

1. ***Proposal (10 points):*** Write a 1-paragraph (~150 words) description of the new bodily practice you will engage in and include a tentative schedule for your activities.
2. ***Field notes (30 points):*** Maintain a field note journal throughout your research. You should have one entry for each of you 5 sessions.
3. ***Paper (80 points):*** Write a 1,500 word (~6 double-spaced pages plus a bibliography) paper analyzing and presenting your findings.

This project will be discussed more during class sessions, and grading rubrics will be posted to the course website.

Feel free to talk with the professor or TA about your topic ideas, and remember that there are a variety of other resources available: the Anthropology Reference Librarian, Ms. Pauline Manaka, has developed an [online guide to Anthropology scholarship](#), and the [UCI Writing Center](#) offers drop-in peer consultations for students at any stage of the writing process.

GRADING

LECTURE ACTIVITIES	20 PTS
DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION (6)	60 PTS
GUIDED ANALYSES (3)	60 PTS
MIDTERM EXAM	70 PTS
FINAL EXAM	70 PTS
RESEARCH PROJECT	
Proposal	10 PTS
Field Notes	30 PTS
Final Paper	80 PTS
TOTAL	400 PTS

GRADING SCALE

(PTS)

A ≥ 374	A- ≥ 360
B+ ≥ 346	B ≥ 334
C+ ≥ 306	C ≥ 294
D+ ≥ 266	D ≥ 254
F ≤ 240	

Course Policies

Content Note

This course contains material that may be considered graphic or sensitive. Many course topics, such as racial- or gender-based violence, bodily injury and mutilation, war, or self-harm, are disturbing and may be traumatizing to some students.

If you have any concerns about particular course content, please feel free to discuss them with the professor or TA.

If you have any questions not answered in this syllabus, please contact the professor or TA. **It is best to visit office hours to speak in person.**

Outside of office hours, you may email the professor at ajenks@uci.edu. During the week (M-F), I will respond to messages within 24 hours. Please include the name of your course in the subject line and your full name in your message.

Electronic devices are useful tools but often distract from learning. Make sure your cell phones are silenced and put away during class.

Do not text or make/accept phone calls during class.

You may use a laptop/tablet in class, but only to take notes or access class materials like lecture slides. Do not use your laptop to explore the internet, Tweet, visit Facebook, etc.

Because many individuals are distracted by glowing screens in their line of vision, **the first 3 rows of our classroom will be a “screen free zone.”** If you wish to take notes on a screen, please sit in rows 4 or higher. The professor may ask that all devices be put away during some class sessions, so please come to class prepared with pen & paper.

Technology & Communication

Academic Integrity

Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself. Violations of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will result in no credit for the assignment and possible course failure and referral for disciplinary action. If you are unfamiliar with UCI's policies on academic integrity, please go to <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm>

Disability Services

The UCI Disability Services Center ensures access to educational programs and resources for all students. The Center assists students whose disabilities include, orthopedic, visual, hearing, learning, chronic health, and psychological disabilities. If you need an accommodation because of the impact of a disability, please contact the Center at 949-824-7494 or <http://disability.uci.edu/>

Course Schedule & Assignments

(Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary).

TOPIC	DATE	WHAT TO READ	WHAT'S DUE?
Week 0: Welcome	Thurs, 9/22	No readings.	
Week 1: Mindful Bodies & the Embodied Self	Tues, 9/27	Hahn, Robert A. and Arthur Kleinman. 1983. "Belief as Pathogen, Belief as Medicine: 'Voodoo Death' and the 'Placebo Phenomenon' in Anthropological Perspective." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 14(4): 3+16-19. Sachs, Oliver. 1970. "The Disembodied Lady." In <i>The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat</i> .	
	Thurs, 9/29	Murphy, <i>The Body Silent</i> , pg. xi-111	
Week 2: Social Bodies	Tues, 10/4	Mauss, Marcel. 1973[1936]. "Techniques of the Body." <i>Economy and Society</i> 2:70-88. Murphy, <i>The Body Silent</i> , pg. 112-136	
	Thurs, 10/6	Murphy, <i>The Body Silent</i> , pg. 137-232	Syllabus quiz (online)
Week 3: "Oddities" & Racialized Bodies	Tues, 10/11	Bogdan, Robert. 1990. <i>Freak Show: Presenting Human Oddities for Amusement and Profit</i> . Excerpt. Buckner, Jocelyn L. 2010. "Ota the Other: An African on Display in America." <i>Theatre History Studies</i> 30:154-175.	Research project proposal
	Thurs, 10/13	Gilman, Sander. 1999. "The Racial Nose." Pg. 201-227 in <i>Making the Body Beautiful</i> . Kaw, Eugenia. 1993. "Medicalization and Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery." <i>Medical Anthropology Quarterly</i> 7(1):74-89.	Guided analysis, <i>The Body Silent</i>
Week 4: Sexed & Gendered Bodies	Tues, 10/18	Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. "Of Gender and Genitals." Pg. 45-77 in <i>Sexing the Body</i> . Martin, Karin A. 1998. "Becoming a Gendered Body." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 63(4):494-511.	
	Thurs, 10/20	Greenhalgh, <i>Fat-Talk Nation</i> , pg. 1-71	

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Week 5: Fat & Thin Bodies	Tues, 10/25	<p>Tierney, R. Kenji. 2013. "Bodies Steeped in Stew: Sport, Tradition and the Bodies of the Sumo Wrestler." <i>Asia Pacific Journal of Sport and Social Science</i> 2(3):187-197.</p> <p>Greenhalgh, <i>Fat-Talk Nation</i>, pg. 73-126</p>	
	Thurs, 10/27	Greenhalgh, <i>Fat-Talk Nation</i> , pg. 127-288	Guided analysis, <i>Fat-Talk Nation</i>
Week 6: Commodified Bodies	Tues, 11/1	MIDTERM EXAM in class	Midterm exam
	Thurs, 11/3	<p>Washington, Harriet A. 2006. "The Surgical Theater" and "The Restless Dead." Pg. 101-142 in <i>Medical Apartheid</i>.</p> <p>Desmond, Jane. 2008. "Postmortem Exhibitions: Taxidermied Animals and Plastinated Corpses in the Theaters of the Dead." <i>Configurations</i> 16(3):347-378.</p>	
Week 7: Terrorized & Trophy Bodies	Tues, 11/8	<p>Rubenstein, Steven L. 2004. "Shuar migrants and shrunken heads face to face in a New York Museum." <i>Anthropology Now</i> 20(3): 15-18.</p> <p>Weingartner, James J. 1992. "Trophies of War: US Troops and the Mutilation of Japanese War Dead, 1941-1945." <i>Pacific Historical Review</i> 61(1):53-67.</p>	
	Thurs, 11/10	Young, Harvey. 2005. "The Black Body as Souvenir in American Lynching." <i>Theater Journal</i> 57(4):639-657.	
Week 8: Sacred Bodies	Tues, 11/15	<p>Brandes, Stanley. 2002. "The Cremated Catholic: The Ends of a Deceased Guatemalan." Pg. 111-120 in <i>Commodifying Bodies</i>. Scheper-Hughes & Wacquant, eds.</p> <p>Hsu, Jeremy. 2015. "Lenin's Body Improves with Age." <i>Scientific American</i>, April 22.</p>	Field note journal (5 entries)
	Thurs, 11/17	Conklin, Beth A. 1995. "'Thus Are Our Bodies, Thus Was Our Custom': Mortuary Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society." <i>American Ethnologist</i> 22(1):75-101.	

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Week 9: Fragmented and Hybrid Bodies	Tues, 11/22	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2016. "The Market for Human Organs is Destroying Lives." <i>Washington Post</i> , Jan 5. Sharp, <i>Strange Harvest</i> , Introduction Part 1-2	Research paper final draft
	Thurs, 11/24	NO CLASS: <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
Week 10: Remaking Bodies	Tues, 11/29	Jain, Sarah S. 1999. "The Prosthetic Imagination: Enabling and Disabling the Prosthesis Trope." <i>Science, Technology, and Human Values</i> . 24(1):31-54. Sharp, <i>Strange Harvest</i> , Part 3	
	Thurs, 12/1	Sharp, <i>Strange Harvest</i> , Part 4 & Epilogue	Guided analysis, <i>Strange Harvest</i> and/or Bodies Exhibit
Final Exam	Fri, 12/9	Friday, December 9, 10:30am-12:30pm	