ANTH 428: Anthropology of the Body

Meets: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30-2:45 in Business Admin Building D102
Instructor: Dr. Eirik Saethre
Email: saethre@hawaii.edu
Office: Saunders 306
Office Phone: 956-3995
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:30

Course Description
Exploration of the history and development of theories of the body via topics such as phenomenology, perception, bodily rituals, gender, sex, race, colonialism, power, pain, medicalization, immunology, reproductive health and cyborgs.

Course Objectives
• This course will explore the historical development of ideas regarding the body.
• Students will review the philosophical and social science perspectives upon which anthropologists draw.
• Students will gain an understanding of importance of the body as a focus of inquiry.
• This course will examine the body as a marker of gender, class, health, identity, morality and personhood.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:
• Use appropriate research tools to formulate a scholarly argument within the context of anthropology.
• Examine the ways in which ideas regarding the body are socially and culturally constructed.
• Think critically about the division between the mind and the body.
• Understand importance of the body as a focus of power, identity, and economy.
• Recognize the value of anthropological understandings of the body.

Required Texts and Readings:
All other readings for this course are posted as pdf documents on Laulima.

Grading and Student Evaluation
Group Presentations (55%)
Beginning in Week 4, students will be divided into six groups. Each class, one group will be responsible for reviewing the readings and mediating discussion. As a guide, I will distribute a list of questions in advance that the group must answer. Some of these questions will require further research. In addition, the group is responsible for facilitating debate. Ask questions, start conversations, and get people talking. Groups
should meet in advance to divide the work for each week. Be sure to manage your time wisely to ensure that all of the assigned questions are answered in class. Although working as a group, students will be graded individually. Each group will give four presentations.

**Discussion Questions and Summary (15%)**
Starting in Week 4, students should prepare two additional discussion questions for each class. Before the presenting group begins, one student will be randomly selected to share his or her questions, which the group must answer. At the end of the class, another student will be randomly selected to summarize the main points of the discussion and readings. Summaries should be less than five minutes in length and should focus on three to five points. Each student will provide one set of questions and one summary.

**Class Participation (5%)**
In addition to oral presentations, students are expected to participate in class discussion. Students that talk in class and answer questions will receive higher participation scores.

**Final Exam (25%)**
The final exam will consist of essay questions and be given in our usual classroom on Friday December 16 from 2:15 to 4:15.

**Missed Presentations**
If, for any reason, a student misses a group presentation, the grade must be made up by writing a ten page research paper on one of the issues covered in the week that was missed. The paper must cite at least ten scholarly sources, follow the standards outlined in the document ‘Guidelines for Papers’ (on Laulima), and is due on the day of the final exam. Students are allowed to make up one absence for both the discussion question and summary. If a second absence occurs for any reason, a five page reading response paper must be submitted. **If a student misses two or more group presentations, the highest grade possible will be a D- and the student will not earn O Focus credit.**

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>300-290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>289-280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>279-270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>269-260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>259-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>249-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>239-230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>229-220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>219-210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>209-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>199-190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>189-180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>179-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classroom Policies**
- Be on time for class and turn off cell phones.
- All course handouts, readings, and assignments can be found on Laulima.
- Students are responsible for all course content, whether or not they are in class.
- If you miss class, you must get lecture notes from another student. I do not let students copy my notes.
- You are responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
Class Schedule

Week 1 – Bodies
8/22 Introduction to the Class; Oral Presentations
8/24 Introduction / Judith Farquhar and Margaret Lock

Week 2 – The Body as a Signifier
8/29 The Pre-eminence of the Right Hand: A Study in Religious Polarity / Robert Hertz
Right and Left in China / Marcel Granet
Pulse Diagnosis in the Greek and Chinese Traditions / Shigehisa Kuriyama
8/31 Symbols in Ndembu Ritual / Victor Turner
The Social Skin / Terence Turner

Week 3 – Marxism and Bodies
9/5 No class – Labor Day
9/7 On the Part Played by Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man / Friedrich Engels
Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook / Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Week 4 – Philosophical Studies
9/12 Techniques of the Body / Marcel Mauss
Belief and the Body / Pierre Bourdieu (on Laulima)
9/14 from The Phenomenology of Perception / Maurice Merleau-Ponty
Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology / Thomas Csordas (on Laulima)

Week 5 – Philosophical Studies
9/19 Making Up People / Ian Hacking
Do You Believe in Reality? / Bruno Latour
9/21 Bodies and Anti-Bodies / Terrence Turner (on Laulima)
from Bodies That Matter / Judith Butler

Week 6 – Time and the City
9/26 Time and Space / E. E. Evans-Pritchard
Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism / E. P. Thompson
9/28 The City: The Sewer, the Gaze, and the Contaminating Touch / Peter Stallybrass
and Allon White
Walking in the City / Michel de Certeau
Tactility and Distraction / Michael Taussig

Week 7 – Women’s Bodies / Birth
10/3 Women Mystics and Eucharistic Devotion in the Thirteenth Century / Caroline Walker Bynum
The Woman beneath the Skin: A Doctor’s Patients in Eighteenth-Century Germany / Barbara Duden
10/5  Remembering Amal: On Birth and the British in Northern Sudan / Janice Boddy
   Cooption and Control: The Reconstruction of Inuit Birth / Patricia Leyland
   Kaufert and John D. O’Neil

Week 8 – Female Genital Cutting / Distress
10/10 National Bodies, Unspeakable Acts: The Sexual Politics of Colonial Policy
   Making / Susan Pedersen
   Rethinking Female Circumcision / Melissa Parker (on Laulima)
10/12 Memory within the Body: Women’s Narrative and Identity in a Southern Italian
   Village / Mariella Pandolfi
   Nervoso / Nancy Scheper-Hughes
   Somatization / Arthur Kleinman and Joan Kleinman

Week 9 – Sexuality / Clothing
10/17 Men, Beasts, and “Nature” / John Boswell
   Cartographies of Desire: Male-Male Sexuality in Japanese Discourse / Gregory
   M. Pflugfelder
10/19 From Cool to Hot to Cool / Marilyn DeLong and Juyeon Park (on Laulima)
   The Zoot Suit and Style Warfare / Stuart Cosgrove

Week 10 – Good Hair
10/24 Movie: Good Hair – Part I
10/26 Movie: Good Hair – Part II

Week 11 – Obesity / Changing Economies
10/31 Nurturing and Negligence / Anne Becker (on Laulima)
   Corporeal Knowledges and Deviant Bodies / Samantha Murray (on Laulima)
11/2 The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in
   Malaysia / Aihwa Ong
   Plastic Teeth Extraction: The Iconography of Haya Gastro-Sexual Affliction / Brad Weiss

Week 12 – The Commodification of the Body
11/7 The Commodification of the Body and Its Parts / Leslie Sharp (on Laulima)
   Human Body Parts as Therapeutic Tools: Contradictory Discourses and
   Transformed Subjectivities / Margaret Lock
11/9 Bodyworlds: The Art of Plastinated Cadavers / Jose van Dijck
   Jarring Bodies: Thoughts on the Display of Unusual Anatomies / Alice Domurat
   Dreger

Week 13 – Sex / The Fetus
11/14 Some Speculations on the History of “Sexual Intercourse” during the “Long
   Eighteenth Century” in England / Henry Abelove
   The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance / Emily
   Martin
11/16  Meratus Embryology / Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing  
Real-Time Fetus: The Role of the Sonogram in the Age of Monitored Reproduction / Rayna Rapp

**Week 14 – The Technology of Reproduction / Death**
11/21  Constructing a “Good Catch,” Picking a Winner: The Development of Technosemen and the Deconstruction of the Monolithic Male / Matthew Schmidt and Lisa Jean Moore  
Quit Sniveling, Cryo-Baby, We’ll Work out Which One’s Your Mama! / Charis Thompson
11/23  ‘Thus Are Our Bodies, Thus Was Our Custom / Beth Conklin ([on Laulima](#))  
Technologies of the HIV/AIDS Corpse / John Troyer ([on Laulima](#))

**Week 15 – Cyborgs**
11/28  A Cyborg Manifesto / Donna Haraway ([on Laulima](#))  
Cyborg Anthropology / Garry Lee Downey, Joseph Dumit, and Sarah Williams ([on Laulima](#))
11/30  Prozac and the Post-Human Politics of Cyborgs / Bradley Lewis ([on Laulima](#))  
A Digital Image of the Category of the Person / Joseph Dumit ([on Laulima](#))

**Week 16 – Race, Genetics and Immortalized Cell Lines**
12/5  The Diseased Heart of Africa / Jean Comaroff ([on Laulima](#))  
Inventing the Heterozygote: Molecular Biology, Racial Identity, and the Narratives of Sickle-Cell Disease, Tay-Sachs, and Cystic Fibrosis / Keith Wailoo
12/7  Alienation of Body Parts and the Biopolitics of Immortalized Cell Lines / Margaret Lock  
Immortality, in Vitro / Hannah Landecker ([on Laulima](#))

**Week 17: Final Exam**