Fall 2014

ANTH 428: Anthropology of the Body

Meets:  Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:45 in Saunders 637
Instructor:  Prof. Eirik Saethre
Email:  saethre@hawaii.edu
Office:  Saunders 306
Office Phone:  956-3995
Office Hours:  Monday and Wednesday 3:30-4:30

This course is designated an International Cultural Studies Certificate Program Elective.

Course Content
This course will examine the body as a focus for anthropological investigation. The body is a rich site upon which practices, images, meanings, norms and cosmologies are inscribed. Furthermore, it is through the everyday experience of lived bodies that power, identity, and inequality are expressed. Building upon these ideas, we will explore the body not as a skin-bound biomechanical individual, but as a dynamic, malleable and experiential entity around which society, culture and economy intersect. Topics will include: philosophical theories of embodiment; body processes; everyday life; colonized bodies; sexuality and gender; eating disorders; the commodification of bodily life; and the body in the biosciences.

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.

Course Materials:
All materials for this course are posted as pdf documents in the ‘Resources’ folder on Laulima.
Grading and Student Evaluation

Reverse Outline and Summary (15%) – Due on Monday Weeks 5 or 6
Choose ONE of the readings for the week. At the top of your paper, write the central
claim of the article in two sentences or less. In no less than eight pages, make an outline
of the article as follows:

1) Section Title
   a) Using complete sentences, summarize the main points of each section. Each
      point should have its own heading letter (a, b, c, and so on). In parenthesis, add
      the page and paragraph number.
   i) List the evidence that the author uses to support the claim. This includes
data, ethnography, or citing the ideas and theories of others. Each piece of
evidence should have its own heading letter (i, ii, iii, and so on).

Then using the same reading, write a text summary. In two pages, summarize the
author’s overall argument and demonstrate how the author supports this argument using
details to illustrate your assertion. Your paper should have a clear introduction and
conclusion. For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or a
bibliography. The readings by Fillingham and Downey, Dumit, and Williams may not be
used for this exercise.

Summary and Analysis (15%) – Due on Monday Week 7 or 8
Choose one reading and write a two page text summary as outlined above. In an
additional two pages, write an analysis of the week’s theme. Making reference to all
other readings from the week, discuss the contributions that the author(s) makes in
understanding the topic. For this exercise, you do not need to provide in text citations or
a bibliography.

Abstract and Preliminary Bibliography (10%) – Due October 29 (Week 10)
In 200-300 words, concisely summarize your forthcoming research paper. Your abstract
should (1) give a brief background to the topic of your paper, (2) the anthropological
approach you are going to use, and (3) the data that will be marshaled to support your
conclusions. Do not ask questions, give answers. Students must also submit a
preliminary bibliography containing at least six citations. At least three of these must be
anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by anthropologists). Please bold
the anthropological citations.

Research Paper (30%) – First Draft due November 19 (Week 13)
Final Draft due December 10 (Week 16)
Papers should focus on a topic relevant to the course and be anthropological.
Undergraduate student papers must be between ten to twelve pages long (not including
the bibliography) and cite at least twelve academic sources. Graduate student papers
must be between fourteen to sixteen pages long and cite at least twenty academic sources.
At least eight of these must be anthropological (from anthropology journals or written by
anthropologists). Please bold the anthropological citations in your bibliography. Papers can incorporate a fieldwork component but are not required to do so.

Class Participation and Peer Review (10%)
Throughout the class, discussion is encouraged. Students that talk in class and answer questions will receive higher participation scores. In Week 14, students will be divided into groups to formally critique first drafts. Each student will be required to read the papers of other group members and provide written feedback.

Final Exam (20%) – Friday December 19, 2:00-2:00
The final exam will be held in our usual classroom. It will consist of essay questions and cover all material in the course, including readings and lectures.

Style and Formatting Guidelines
All student assignments for this course must follow the standards outlined in the document ‘Guidelines for Papers’, which is available on Laulima. Any paper not conforming to ALL of these guidelines will be penalized.

Late Papers
Unless otherwise stated, papers are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments (including first drafts) will lose ten percent for every day that elapses and on the sixth day, the student will receive a zero.

Instructor Feedback
I will provide written feedback on every assignment, spend a portion of several classes discussing writing generally and assignments specifically, devote an entire week to critiquing first drafts, and I am available to discuss work one-on-one if needed.

Grading Scale

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<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>300-290</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>269-260</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>239-230</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>289-280</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>259-250</td>
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<tr>
<td>279-270</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>249-240</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>219-210</td>
<td>C-</td>
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Classroom Policies
- Be on time. Turn off cell phones. No computers are allowed in class.
- 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.
- You are responsible for knowing about, and avoiding, academic dishonesty.
- For more information about writing resources on campus and online, go to http://www.mwp.hawaii.edu/writer_help.htm.
Class Schedule

**Week 1 – Introduction**

8/25 Introduction to the Class


**Week 2 – Freaks**

9/1 No Class – Labor Day


- Introduction: Exhibiting Freaks

- Chapter 2: The Operation Film as a Mediated Freak Show

**Week 3 – Economy**


**Week 4 – Habitus and Phenomenology**


- Chapter 4: Belief and the Body


**Week 5 – Discipline and the Panopticon**

- The Body of the Condemned
- Docile Bodies
- Panopticism

- Discipline and Punish


**Week 6 – Gender and Cyborgs**


- Chapter 8: A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century


**Week 7 – Anorexia**

- Chapter 3: Knowing through the Body
- Chapter 4: The Complexities of Being Anorexic

- Chapter 5: Abject Relations with Food
- Chapter 6: “Me and My Disgusting Body”
Week 8 – Sexuality and Transformed Bodies
• Chapter 2: Becoming a *Travesti*
• Chapter 5: *Travesti* Gendered Subjectivity

Week 9 – Intersex
• Chapter 5: Fixing Sex: Surgery and the Production of Normative Sexuality
• Chapter 6: Wanting and Deciding What Is Best: Parent’s Experiences
• Chapter 7: Growing Up under the Medical Gaze: Adult’s Experiences

Week 10 – Medicine, Race, and Reproduction

Week 11 – Organ Donation and Trade
• Chapter 4: Making the New Death Uniform
• Chapter 10: When Bodies Outlive Persons
Week 12 – Plastic Surgery

- The Siloconadas
- A Brief History of Self-Esteem
- Hospital School
- The Right to Beauty
- Aesthetic Health


- Preta
- Magnificent Miscegenation
- The National Passion
- Nanci’s Rhinoplasty
- The Vanity of Maids

Week 13 – Drugs

- Chapter 3: A Community of Addicted Bodies


- Chapter 1: Guinea-Pigging
- Chapter 2: Market Recruitment, Identity, and Resistance among Professional Guinea Pigs

FIRST DRAFT DUE

Week 14 – Critique Week
11/24 Peer Review
11/26 Peer Review

Week 15 – Film
12/1 Good Hair – Part I
12/3 Good Hair – Part II

Week 16 – Body in the Mind


12/10 Class Review

FINAL DRAFT DUE

Week 17: Final Exam: Friday December 19, 2:00-2:00