## Sabancı University

## Fall 2020

## Anth 326 / 526

## Anthropology of the Body

Monday 15.40 – 17.30

Tuesday 11.40 – 12.30

#### Ayşe Gül Altınay

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*Office Hour*

Tuesday 13.40 – 14.30

or by appointment

Overview

What is “the body”? How has it been conceptualized in different historical and cultural contexts? What is my relationship to “the body” in general, and to “my body” in particular?

The biological body has an undeniable physicality, yet at the same time, our experiences of our bodies and the ways in which we make sense of those experiences are inevitably embedded in and defined by the social. Taking an anthropological perspective and paying attention to both discursive and phenomenological approaches, this introductory course will investigate the ways in which the body has been observed, classified, experienced and modified in different cultural contexts and disciplinary regimes.

In these extraordinary times of a pandemic challenge and online learning, this class will give us a chance to reflect on the body in the context of uncertainty, crisis, and transformation. The pandemic is introducing major changes to almost everything that we have taken for granted as our “normal” lives, bodies, and selves. This is a precious moment to become aware of what we have taken for granted and how it is being or can be transformed for a better world and a better life, however we define “better.” How can we rethink bodies and our relationship to them at a time when the body is facing multiple challenges (from health and well-being to limited mobility and expression)? Is it possible to use this moment of crisis and uncertainty to reflect more creatively on alternative imagining of the human bodies in their connection to one and other, to other life forms and to the planet? To borrow from feminist scholar Dina Georgis: What is a “better story” of the planet, of human bodies and lives, and of ourselves at this particular moment in time? Where do we see this “better story” unfolding? What forms is it taking and who are its creative subjects?

In other words, this class will 1) engage in a critical discussion of how the body has historically been imagined in different parts of the world and in different disciplinary regimes, and 2) how it is being challenged and reimagined in contemporary times. All the participants in the class will be invited to contribute examples from their everyday lives and fields of interests to help us develop a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of how ideas about “the body” are both shaping our world and our lives, and are being reimagined in new ways.

The class will be held synchronously on Zoom and will be *very interactive*. We will be using breakout rooms, the chat, the poll, working together on drive documents and other options that online teaching makes possible. Although it is possible to get a passing grade with successful exam performance, your learning, as well as your grade, will be greatly enhanced with online participation and presence during the class hour. Since much of the learning will be mutual and interactive, everyone will be asked to keep their videos on, be “present” as active listeners and active participants, both in the large room and in the small break-out rooms that will be used regularly and frequently.

***Requirements and Grading:***

***Attendance and participation* (extra 10 points)** Since this will be a very interactive class, attendance is strongly encouraged and class participation will play a major role in your learning experience. Regular attendance and participation during the regular class hours will give you an extra credit of up to 10 points in your final grade.

***The Body Journal* (10 points)**Keep a body journal, where you make regular entries (at least weekly, but preferably daily) about your own bodily experiences and “ethnographic” observations. Questions and guidelines for the journal will be shared during the first week of classes.

***Response Papers* (30 points)** For a total of 6 weeks (of your choice – except exam weeks, due Monday at 15.30), submit a response paper (2 double-spaced pages) that discusses the readings of that week. The response paper should *discuss* (not summarize) *all the readings* of that week, making connections between them, discussing strengths and weaknesses, asking questions, raising criticisms, and making suggestions for further discussion.

***Midterm Exam* (20 points x 2)** There will be two midterm exams during the semester, on November 9th and December 7th, during the regular class hour.

***Final Exam* (20 points)** The final exam will take place during the time announced by the university and will cover all the readings and discussions of the semester. \* For graduate students registered under Anth 526, this will be a Final Take-Home Exam or a Research Paper.

Please make sure to review the university policies on:

***Academic Integrity*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement)

***Academic Freedom*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom)

***Non-Discrimination***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement)

***Sexual Harassment***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement)

**Anthropology: Making the Strange Familiar, the Familiar Strange**

**October 5 – Monday**

Introduction

**October 6 – Tuesday**

* Horace Miner (1956) “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” *American Anthropologist,* 58(3): 503-507.

**Gendering and Racialization of Bodies**

**October 12 – Monday**

* Audre Lorde (1984) “Poetry is not a Luxury” (pp.36-39), “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action” (pp.40-44), “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power” (pp.53-59) “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” (pp.110-113) and “The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism” (pp.124-133) in *Sister Outside: Essays and Speeches.* Berkeley: The Crossing Press.
* June Jordan (1985 [1982]) “Report from the Bahamas” in *On Call: Political Essays.* Boston: South End Press, pp. 39-49.
* Learn about the [founders of Black Lives Matter](https://blacklivesmatter.com/herstory/)
* American Anthropological Association Statement on “Race” <http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>
* Read about “Race and Human Variation” on AAA website:

<http://www.understandingrace.org/>

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Audre Lorde (1984) “Eye to Eye: Black Women, Hatred and Anger” (145-175) in *Sister Outside: Essays and Speeches.* Berkeley: The Crossing Press.

**October 13 – Tuesday**

* bell hooks (1989) “feminism: a transformational politic” (pp.19-27) and “on self-recovery” (pp.28-34) in *talking back: thinking feminist, thinking black.* Boston: South End Press.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* bell hooks (1981) “Black Women and Feminism” in *Ain’I I a Woman? black women and feminism.* Boston: South End Press, pp.159-196.
* Kathy Davis (2014) “Making Theories Work” in *Writing Academic Texts Differently: Intersectional Feminist Methodologies and the Playful Art of Writing*, ed. Nina Lykke. New York: Routledge, pp.172-179.

**October 19 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Arlene Avakian*

* Ruth Frankenberg (2000) “White Women, Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness” in *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*, ed. Les Back and John Solomos. London: Routledge, pp.447-461.
* Arlene Avakian (2010) “A Different Future? Armenian Identity through the Prism of Trauma, Nationalism and Gender” in *New Perspectives on Turkey,* no. 42.pp. 203-214.
* Arlene Avakian (2020) “Miras Yaşıyor”(The Legacy Continues) in *Aslan Kadının Mirası: Amerikalı bir Ermeni’nin Feminist Olma Yolculuğu*. İstanbul: Aras, pp. 369-399.
  + English/Original uploaded on SU Course.
  + For Turkish: Click on [*Okuma Parçası*](https://www.arasyayincilik.com/urun/aslan-kadinin-mirasi/) on the Aras website.
  + You can also read the book reviews by clicking on [*Basından*](https://www.arasyayincilik.com/urun/aslan-kadinin-mirasi/)*.*

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw (1991) “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color,” *Stanford Law Review*43(6): 1241-1299.

*Recommended:*

* Arlene Avakian (2016) “[Hafıza Çakmaları Eşliğinde Kastamonu’ya Aile Köklerine Yolculuk](http://www.agos.com.tr/tr/yazi/13950/hafiza-cakmalari-esliginde-kastamonuya-aile-koklerine-bir-yolculuk)” *Agos,* 8 Ocak 2016.
* Zabel Yesayan (2006 [1912]) “Yeter!” in *Bir Adalet Feryadı: Osmanlı’dan Türkiye’ye Beş Ermeni Feminist Yazar – 1862-1933,* eds. Lerna Ekmekçioğlu and Melissa Bilal. İstanbul: Aras, pp.224-239.
* Kathy Davis (2008) “Intersectionality as Buzzword. A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful” *Feminist Theory* 9(1): 67-85.

**October 20 – Tuesday**

* Alcoff, Linda (1999) “Towards a Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment” *Radical Philosophy* 35 (May-June): 15-26.

**Beyond Mind vs. Body**

**October 26 – Monday**

* Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Margaret Lock (1987) “The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1):6–41.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Emily Martin (2000) “Mind-Body Problems” *American Ethnologist* 27(3):569-590.

**October 27 – Tuesday**

* Terence Turner (2011) “The Body Beyond the Body: Social, Material and Spiritual Dimensions of Bodiliness” in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Body and Embodiment,* ed. Frances E. Mascia-Lees. Wiley Blackwell. pp.102-118.

**November 2 – Monday**

* Gabor Mate (2004) “The Bermuda Triangle” and “The Seven A’s of Healing” in *When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress.* Vintage Canada.
* Bessel van der Kolk (2014) “Healing from Trauma: Owning Your Self” in *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* New York: Penguin Books, pp. 205-231.

**November 3 – Tuesday**

* Bessel van der Kolk (2014) “Learning to Inhabit Your Body: Yoga” in *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* New York: Penguin Books, pp. 265-278.

**November 9 – Monday**

*Midterm Exam I*

**Sexes, Genders, Sexualities**

**November 10 – Tuesday**

* Claire Ainsworth (2015) “[Sex Redefined](https://www.nature.com/news/sex-redefined-1.16943)” *Nature,* February 18.

**November 16 – Monday**

* Carla Rice, Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, Elisabeth Harrison, Margaret Robinson, Jen Rinaldi, Andrea LaMarre and Jill Andrew (2020) “Bodies at the Intersections: Refiguring Intersectionality through Queer Women’s Complex Embodiments” *Signs,* 46(1):177-200.
* Katrina Karkazis and Rebecca M. Jordan-Young (2018) “The Powers of Testosterone: Obscuring Race and Regional Bias in the Regulation of Women Athletes” *Feminist Formations*, 30(2): 1-39.

*Recommended:*

* Carla Rice (2018) “The Spectacle of the Child Woman: Troubling Girls and the Science of Early Puberty” *Feminist Studies* 44(3): 535-566.

**November 17 – Tuesday**

* Rebecca Jordan-Young and Raffaella I. Rumiati (2012) “Hardwired for Sexism? Approaches to Sex/Gender in Neuroscience” *Neuroethics* (5):305–315.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Rebecca Jordan-Young (2014) “Homunculus in the Hormones?” *Gender in Science and Technology,* eds. Waltraud Ernst and Ilona Horwath. Bielefeld: transcript, pp.111-128.

**Reproductive Rights for Whom?**

**Claims, Contestations and Solidarities**

**November 23 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Ayşecan Terzioğlu*

* Judith Butler (2002), “Is Kinship Always Already Heterosexual?”, *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, 13(1): 14-44.
* Laura Mamo, “Queering the Fertility Clinic”, in *Beyond Bioethics: Toward a New Biopolitics*, University of California Press, 2018, pp.328-338.
* Marcia C. Inhorn, “How They Struggle”,  in *America's Arab Refugees: Vulnerability and Health on the Margins*, Standford University Press, 2018, pp.103-129.

**November 24 – Tuesday**

* Emily Martin (1991) “The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles,” *Signs* 16(3):485-501.

**Masculinities**

**November 30 – Monday**

* Salih Can Açıksöz (2012) “Sacrificial Limbs of Sovereignty: Disabled Veterans, Masculinity and Nationalist Politics in Turkey” *Medical Anthropology Quarterly,* 26(1): 4-25.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Michel Foucault, “Docile bodies,” in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison,* New York: Vintage Books, 1979, pp.135-169.

**December 1 – Tuesday**

* C. J. Pascoe (2005) “**‘**Dude, You’re a Fag’: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse” *Sexualities* 8(3):329-346.

**December 7 – Monday**

*Midterm Exam II*

**December 8 – Tuesday**

Class exercise on masculinities

**Affect and Beyond**

**December 14 – Monday** *Guest lecturer: Umut Yıldırım*

* Catherine Lutz (2017) “What Matters” *Cultural Anthropology* 32(2):181-191.
* Umut Yıldırım (2019) “Space, Loss and Resistance: A Haunted Pool-Map in South Eastern Turkey” *Anthropological Theory,* 19(4): 440-469.
* Christina Sharpe (2017) “The Weather” *The New Inquiry* (online), January 19. <https://thenewinquiry.com/the-weather/>

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Emily Martin (2013) “The potentiality of Ethnography and the Limits of Affect Theory” *Cultural Anthropology,* 54 (S7): S149-S158.

**December 15 – Tuesday**

No additional reading. Discussion based on the readings from Monday, December 14.

**Bodies in the Anthropocene**

**December 21 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Bürge Abiral*

* Stacy Alaimo (2010) “Genetics, Material Agency, and the Evolution of Posthuman Environmental Ethics in Science Fiction” in *Bodily Natures*. Indiana: Indiana University Press, pp.141-158.
* Becky Mansfield (2018) “A new biopolitics of environmental health: permeable bodies and the Anthropocene.” *The Sage Handbook of Nature* (ed. T. Marsden), vol. 3, pp. 216-230.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Stacy Alaimo (2010) “Deviant Agents: The Science, Culture, and Politics of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity” in *Bodily Natures*. Indiana: Indiana University Press, pp.113-140.

**December 22 – Tuesday**

* [Joanna Macy: A Wild Love for the World](https://onbeing.org/programs/joanna-macy-a-wild-love-for-the-world/) (OnBeing with Krista Tippet)
* [Joanna Macy: We Belong – Hope, Choice, and Our Relationship with the Earth](https://resources.soundstrue.com/podcast/joanna-macy-we-belong-hope-choice-and-our-relationship-with-the-earth/) (Insights from the Edge with Tami Simon)

**Collective Embodiment: Dance**

**December 28 – Monday**

* Kathy Davis (2015) “Introduction” and “Performing Feminity, Performing Masculinity” in *Dancing Tango: Passionate Encounters in a Globalizing World.* New York: New York University Press, pp. 1-18 and 100-126.

**December 29 – Tuesday**

* Kathy Davis (2015) “Queering Tango” in *Dancing Tango: Passionate Encounters in a Globalizing World.* New York: New York University Press, pp. 127-154.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Evelyn Blackwood (2011) “(Trans)Gender: Tomboi Embodiment” in in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Body and Embodiment,* ed. Frances E. Mascia-Lees. Wiley Blackwell. pp. 207-222.

**Collective Embodiment: Stage, Street and Beyond**

**January 4 – Monday**

* Bürge Abiral, Ayşe Gül Altınay, Dilara Çalışkan and Armanc Yıldız (2019) “Curious Steps: Mobilizing Memory through Collective Walking and Storytelling in Istanbul” *Women Mobilizing Memory,* eds. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Banu Karaca, and Alisa Solomon. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 84-104.
* Deva Woodly (2019) “Black Feminist Visions and the Politics of Healing in the Movement for Black Lives” in *Women Mobilizing Memory,* eds. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Banu Karaca, and Alisa Solomon. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 219-237.
* Bessel van der Kolk (2014) “Finding Your Voice: Communal Rhythms and Theater” and “Choices to be Made” in *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma.* New York: Penguin Books, pp. 332-358.

**January 5 – Tuesday** Guest speaker: Bürge Abiral

* Food, Body, Earth – A Conversation