## Sabancı University

## Fall 2021

## 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)

Teaching Assistant

**Begüm Selici**

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*Office Hour*

Monday 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 historical and cultural contexts and disciplinary regimes. **Gender** will be a key lens through which we will be undertaking this inquiry.

In these extraordinary times of a pandemic challenge and hybrid learning, this class will give us a chance to reflect on the body in the context of uncertainty, crisis, and transformation. At the core of our investigation of the body will be an attitude of **curiosity** and **respect**. 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 be curious about what we have taken for granted and how it is being or can be transformed. 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? What do we understand from (personal *and* collective) **“healing”**? 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 (particularly in relation to gender), 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 1) physically on campus *and* on Zoom on Mondays and 2) on Zoom on Tuesdays. It will be a *very interactive* class, with very few lectures and plenty of class discussion and **active learning** practices (e.g. breakout rooms, chat, poll, working together on drive documents, etc.). Please note that the students in the physical classroom will also need their computers to participate in certain class assignments and practices.

Although class participation is not required and it is possible to get a passing grade only with successful exam performance, your learning, as well as your grade, will be greatly enhanced with regular 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 (whether it is physical or on Zoom) and in the small break-out rooms on Zoom that will be used regularly and frequently.

Here are the technical requirements for class participation:

* **Join the class with a computer** (and not a cell-phone or other small device) so that you can participate in the quiz and other class practices (valid both for participants in the physical classroom and for those on Zoom)
* **Keep your video on at all times** when you are connecting on Zoom (you can blur your background or use a non-intrusive background filter, but your face needs to be visible so that you can connect with others in the classroom)
* **Use earphones and make sure that the screen is not visible to anyone else** when you are connecting from a place where there are other people (e.g. by sitting in front of a wall)
* If you want to take the quiz, make sure to be present on time. If you are joining the physical classroom, please **be there when the class begins** (e.g. you cannot take the quiz online and then join the physical classroom)
* Only **authenticated users** will be able to log into Zoom: Use your Sabancı University ID to join.
* Please have **your preferred name** (for others to address you) on the Zoom screen (this can be your given/official name or chosen name – if your refered name is different from your official name, please let me know)

***Requirements and Grading:***

***Attendance and participation* (10 points)** Since this will be a very interactive class, regular attendance is strongly encouraged and active participation will play a major role in your learning experience.

***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 “(auto)ethnographic” observations. Questions and guidelines for the journal will be shared during the first week of classes. (1 point/ journal – you can get **3 extra points** if you write a body journal for 13 weeks)

***Anth 326 Students: Quiz* (40 points)** For a total of 10 weeks, there will be a short quiz at the beginning of the Monday class on the readings of that week (4 points/quiz - you can get **4 extra points** if you take 11 quizzes)

***Anth 526 students: Response Papers/Theory Journals* (40 points)** For a total of 8 weeks (of your choice, due Monday at 15.30), submit a response paper or theory journal (2-3 double-spaced pages) that discusses the readings of that week. The response paper / theory journal 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. For further instructions regarding the theory journal, please refer to Kathy Davis’s article (September 28)

***Take-Home Essays* (40 points)** There will be two take-home essays with a two-day writing period. The first essay will be due November 11th and the second essay due December 23rd.

**\*** **Anth 526students** will have the option of writing a research paper instead of the second take-home essay.

At Sabancı University, we have a number of important university policies that cover our rights and responsibilities, some of which relate directly to the body. Please make sure to read them carefully:

***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**

**September 27 – Monday**

Introduction

Film Screening: “Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years (1984-1992)” (dir. Dagmar Schultz, 2012)

**September 28 – Tuesday**

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

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* 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.

**Beyond Mind vs. Body**

**October 4 – 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.
* Watch before class: Gabor Mate (with Thomas Hübl), “Trauma, Healing and the Myth of Normal” <https://vimeo.com/498407140>

**October 5 – Tuesday**

* 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.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* 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.

**October 11 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Selcan Kaynak (This class will be on Zoom only)*

* Susie Orbach (2009) “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: Bodies in Time” in *Bodies,*London: Profile Books.
* Daniel J. Siegel (2019) “The Mind in Psychotherapy: An Interpersonal Neurobiology Framework for Understanding and Cultivating Mental Health” *Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice* 92: 224-237.

**October 12 – Tuesday**

* Watch before class: “The Wisdom of Trauma” (dir. Zaya and Maurizio Benazzo, 2021)

*Recommended Reading:*

* 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.

**October 18 – Monday**

* 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.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

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

**October 19 – Tuesday**

* 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.

**Gendering and Racialization of Bodies**

**October 25 – Monday**

* Audre Lorde (1984) “Poetry is not a Luxury” (pp.36-39), “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action” (pp.40-44), “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.
* Learn about the [founders of Black Lives Matter](https://blacklivesmatter.com/herstory/)

**October 26 – Tuesday**

* June Jordan (1985 [1982]) “Report from the Bahamas” in *On Call: Political Essays.* Boston: South End Press, pp. 39-49.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Audre Lorde (1984) “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power” (pp.53-59) in *Sister Outside: Essays and Speeches.* Berkeley: The Crossing Press.
* Léa Dorion (2021) “How can I turn my feminist ethnographic engagement into words? A perspective on knowledge production inspired by Audre Lorde” *Gender, Work, and Organization*, 28 (2): 456-470.

*Recommended :*

* 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.

**November 1 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Arlene Avakian (This class meeting will be on Zoom only)*

* 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 (2016) “[The Urgency of Intersectionality](https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality?language=en)” Ted Woman.
* Kathy Davis (2008) “Intersectionality as Buzzword. A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful” *Feminist Theory* 9(1): 67-85.

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

**November 2 – Tuesday**

* 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.
* 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/>

**November 8 – Monday (on Zoom)**

Writing Group Exercise

**Sexes, Genders, Sexualities**

**November 9 – Tuesday**

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

**November 15 – Monday**

* 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.

**November 16 – 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:*

* 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.

*Recommended:*

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

**November 22 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Dilara Çalışkan (This class meeting will be on Zoom only)*

* Dilara Çalışkan (2019) “Queer Postmemory?” *European Journal of Women’s Studies* 26(3): 261-273.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Judith Butler (2002), “Is Kinship Always Already Heterosexual?”, *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, 13(1): 14-44.

**November 23 – 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.

**November 29 – Monday**

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

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Ayşe Gül Altınay (2004) “Women and the Myth: The World’s First Woman Combat Pilot” in *The Myth of Military-Nation: Militarism, Gender and Education in Turkey.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

**November 30 – Tuesday**

* Ayşe Gül Altınay (2004) “Becoming a Man, Becoming a Citizen” & “The Road Less Traveled: Challenging Military Service” in *The Myth of Military-Nation: Militarism, Gender and Education in Turkey.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

*Recommended:*

* Salih Can Açıksöz (2020) *Sacrificial Limbs: Masculinity, Disability, and Political Violence in Turkey.* Oakland: University of California Press.

**December 6 – Monday** *Lecturer: Begüm Selici*

* bell hooks (2000) “Preface” & “Justice: Childhood Love Lessons” & “Values: Living by a Love Ethic” in *All About Love: New Visions*. New York: William Morrow.

**December 7 – Tuesday**

* bell hooks (2000) “Loss: Loving into Life and Death” & “Healing: Redemptive Love” in *All About Love: New Visions*. New York: William Morrow.

*Additional Reading for Anth 526:*

* bell hooks (2000) “Spirituality: Divine Love” in *All About Love: New Visions*. New York: William Morrow.

**Bodies in the Anthropocene**

**December 13 – Monday**

* Anna Lowenthaup Tsing (for the Matsutake Worlds Research Group) (2014) “Blasted Landscapes (and the Gentle Arts of Mushroom Picking)” in *The Multispecies Salon,* ed. Eben Kirksey, Durham and London: Duke University Press, pp.87-109.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* 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.

**December 14 – Tuesday**

* Joanna Macy (2012) *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy* (selections)

Listen before class:

* [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**

**December 20 – Monday** *Guest Lecturer: Kathy Davis (This class meeting will be on Zoom only)*

* Kathy Davis (2015) “Performing Femininity, Performing Masculinity” (pp.100-126) and “Queering Tango”(pp.127-154) in *Dancing Tango: Passionate Encounters in a Globalizing World.* New York: New York University Press.

*Additional reading for Anth 526:*

* Kathy Davis (2015) “Introduction” (pp.1-18) in *Dancing Tango: Passionate Encounters in a Globalizing World.* New York: New York University Press.

**December 21 – Tuesday**

* 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.

*Second Take-Home Essay Due December 23rd 8pm*

**December 27 – 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.

**December 28 – Tuesday**

* Writing Group Exercise & Discussion