Course Description:

Scholars have suggested that embodiment shapes and filters our knowledge and experience of the world. Such experiences include our struggles for meaning and power. Therefore, the body is the arena and conduit for apprehending, contesting and creating differences and inequalities. Through explorations of various genres such as works of fiction, performance, ethnography, memoir and film, we will examine how social practices enable and produce social alterities and abject subject positions that pivot around the sensuous and the sensual. A particular focus of the course will be an examination of the various ways food, sex, and other corporeal practices are mediated through ideologies around the visceral, the affective and the sensual. We will look into how race is constructed not only through public institutions such as the state but also embodied through everyday sociality and sensory perceptions. Utilizing perspectives from phenomenology, feminism, queer theory, anthropology of the senses, and critical race theory, the course will then stage a “sensuous” critique of multiculturalism and liberal individualism by illustrating how the visceral is cultural and therefore subject to and inflected by the forces of history and political economy.

Required Texts:


Requirements:

1. Readings notes for 10 classes* 45%

2. 15-20 page research paper 45%
   Outline by March 21

3. Paper presentation 10%
No late reading notes will be accepted after the class session of each respective assigned text.

DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE

1. Please note that this schedule is subject to change
2. All required texts are available at the reserved reading room in the undergraduate library.
3. ++Readings are on e-reserve under my name and ANTH 499
4. Additional background readings will be distributed in class

January 17
Initial Encounters with the “Other”
Film: “Without you I am nothing”


Film: Without you I am nothing

January 24
Anthropology of the Senses I


David Howes Introduction and Part 1 “The Prescience of the Senses”
Kathryn Linn Geurts “Consciousness as ‘Feeling in the Body”
Steven Feld “Places Sensed, Senses Placed”

Further Reading:

January 31
Anthropology of the Senses II

Howes, *Sensual Relations*, (skim Chapters 2-6 – but remember to review for the Murray reading), Chapters 7-8


February 7
Sensual Histories, Racial Histories

Susan Stewart “Remembering the Senses.”
Alain Corbin “Charting the Cultural History of the Senses”
David Howes “Hyperesthesia or the Sensual Logic of Late Capitalism”


February 14
Phenomenological Orientations


February 21
Queering Phenomenology


February 28
Querying the Sensational


March 7
From the Visceral to the Virtual


March 14
Mapping Scentiments: The Cultures of Aroma

(Essays # 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16,)

Further Readings:

March 21 – SPRING BREAK

March 28
Food and the Other I


April 4
Food and the Other II

April 11

Food and the Other III


April 18

The Cultural Politics of Disgust and Desire I: Revolting Repasts


Recommended:


Further Readings:

April 25

The Cultural Politics of Disgust and Desire II: Revolting Bodies


May 2

Paper presentations

May 5

Final papers due via email attachment.