

ANTH 499/AAS 490
EATING THE OTHER: FOOD, RACE AND BODIES

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Spring Semester, 2007
Wednesdays, 4-6:50 pm

Professor Martin F. Manalansan IV Email: manalans@uiuc.edu
Office: Davenport 387 Phone: 244-3500
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5 and by appointment

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:

Farquhar, Judith. 2002. *Appetites: Food and Sex in Post-Socialist China*. Durham: Duke University Press.
Drobnick, Jim. 2006. *The Smell Culture Reader*. New York: Berg

Howes, David. 2003. *Sensual Relations: Engaging the Senses in Culture and Theory*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Moore, Judith. 2006. *Fat Girl: A True Story*. New York: Plume

Murray, Sabina. 2005. *A Carnivore's Inquiry: A Novel*. New York: Grove

Seremetakis, Nadia. 1996. *The Senses Still: Perception and Memory as Material Culture in Modernity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Truong, Monique. 2004. *The Book of Salt: A Novel*. New York: Mariner Books.

Williams-Forsen, Psyche. 2006. *Building Houses out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food and Power*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press.

Massumi, Brian. 2002. *Parables of the Virtual: Movement, Affect, Sensation*. . Durham: Duke University Press.

Ahmed, Sara. 2006. *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Cvetkovich, Anne. 2003. *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*. Durham: North Carolina Press

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”

bell hooks 1992. “Eating the Other” in *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. Boston: South End Press. 21-39. (in-class)
Troillot, Michel-Rolph 2003. “Anthropology and the Savage Slot: The Poetics and Politics of Otherness.” In *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World*. New York: Palgrave. 7-28. (in-class)

Film: Without you I am nothing

January 24

Anthropology of the Senses I

Howes, David. 2003. *Sensual Relations: Engaging the Senses in Culture and Theory*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 1 and 2

++Essays from: Howes, David. (ed.). 2005. *Empire of the Senses*. New York: Berg

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:

Classen, Constance. 1993. *Worlds of Sense: Exploring the Senses in History and Across Cultures*. London: Routledge.

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

Seremetakis Seremetakis, Nadia. 1996. *The Senses Still*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Read all the essays by Seremetakis, Buck Morss, Stoller)

February 7

Sensual Histories, Racial Histories

++Essays from: Howes, David. (ed.). 2005. *Empire of the Senses*. New York: Berg

Oliver Sacks. “The Mind’s Eye: What the Blind See”

Susan Stewart “Remembering the Senses.”

Alain Corbin “Charting the Cultural History of the Senses”

David Howes “Hyperesthesia or the Sensual Logic of Late Capitalism”

++Smith, Mark. 2006. *How Race is Made: Slavery, Segregation and the Senses*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-3.

Seremetakis, Nadia. 1996. *The Senses Still*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Read the Feldman essay)

++Scott, Joan W. 1993. “The Evidence of Experience” in H. Abelove et.al. (eds.) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge. 397-415

February 14

Phenomenological Orientations

++Maurice Merleau-Ponty. 1958. *The Phenomenology of Perception*. London: Routledge. Preface, Introduction, Part I (77-83, 112-177), Part II (240-282), Part III (476-530).

Bergson, Henri. 1911. *Matter and Memory*. London: Allen and Unwin. Introduction, Chapter 1 and 2 pp 1-169

February 21

Queering Phenomenology

Ahmed, Sara. 2006. *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*. Durham: Duke University Press.

February 28

Querying the Sensational

Cvetkovich, Anne. 2003. *An Archive of Feelings: Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*. Durham: North Carolina Press

Grosz, Elizabeth. 1994. *Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporeal Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Chapter 3 "Lived Bodies: Phenomenology and the Flesh." (selected chapters)

March 7

From the Visceral to the Virtual

Massumi, Brian. 2002. *Parables of the Virtual: Movement, Affect, Sensation*. . Durham: Duke University Press.

March 14

Mapping Scintiments: The Cultures of Aroma

Drobnick, Jim. 2006. *The Smell Culture Reader*. New York: Berg

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

` Further Readings:

Ackerman, Diane. 1990. *A Natural History of the Senses*. New York: Vintage

Burr, Chandler. 2004. *The Emperor of Scent: A True Story of Perfume and Obsession*. New York: Random House.

Classen, Constance, David Howes and Anthony Synott. 1994. *Aroma: The Cultural History of Smell*. London: Routledge.

Corbin, Alain. 1986. *The Foul and the Fragrant: Odor and the French Social Imagination*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

March 21 – SPRING BREAK

March 28

Food and the Other I

Farquhart, Judith. 2002. *Appetites: Food and Sex in Post-Socialist China*. Durham: Duke University Press.

April 4

Food and the Other II

Williams-Forsson, Psyche. 2006. *Building Houses out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food and Power*. Chapel Hill.

University of North Carolina Press.

April 11

Food and the Other III

Truong, Monique. 2004. *The Book of Salt: A Novel*. New York: Mariner Books

April 18

The Cultural Politics of Disgust and Desire I: Revolting Repasts

Murray, Sabina. 2005. *A Carnivore's Inquiry: A Novel*. New York: Grove

Recommended:

++Menninghaus, Winfried. 2003. *Disgust: Theory and History of a Strong Sensation*. Albany: State University of New York Press. Introduction and Chapter 1

++Miller, William Ian. 1977. *The Anatomy of Disgust*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1-4

++Goldman, Laurence R. 1999. *The Anthropology of Cannibalism*. Westport: Bergin and Garvey. (Read essays by Goldman, Rumsey, and Gardner)

Further Readings:

Cohen, William and Ryan Johnson. (eds.). 2005 *Filth: Dirt, Disgust and Modern Life*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

April 25

The Cultural Politics of Disgust and Desire II: Revolting Bodies

Moore, Judith. 2006. *Fat Girl: A True Story*. New York: Plume

May 2

Paper presentations

May 5

Final papers due via email attachment.