

Anthropology 9104B:
Special Topics in Bioarchaeology
THE BODY AS MATERIAL CULTURE

Course Outline
January to April 2015



<http://cfs9.tistory.com/image/27/tistory/2008/07/12/02/16/4877957e9984b>

Instructor: Dr. Alexis Dolphin (adolpin@uwo.ca)
Class Time: Wednesdays 1:30 to 4:30 in SSC 2257
Office Hours: by appointment in SSC 3212
Phone: 519-661-2111 x81128

Course Description:

This course will examine the materiality, representation and experience of human bodies with particular reference to their location at the nexus of historically-situated social and power relations. An over-arching goal of this course will be to move beyond artificial divisions of the biological and the social by exploring the embodiment and lived experience of personal selves, communities and the larger social, political and economic systems of which they are a part. An emphasis will be placed upon bioarchaeological questions and approaches to the bodies of past peoples, yet this course will also draw upon readings, concepts and case studies pertaining to contemporary populations. As such, we will take a holistic approach to discussing how archaeological bodies are understood, by whom, and for what purposes, in our own era of rapidly changing technologies, politics and economics of the human body. While this course will focus on the articulation of body concepts with bioarchaeology, it will also be of relevance to students interested in the history, social construction, and commodification of bodies, and biocultural approaches to anthropology more generally.

Course Requirements:

Internet Assignment – 20%

February 4th in-class

Students will search out **THREE** popular internet news stories which convey something to the public about bodies in the past. I would recommend choosing your news stories according to some sort of theme, however loose. Each student will prepare a 20 minute class presentation of their news items and hand-in an 8-page synopsis of their thoughts regarding them. When searching for, and reading, their news stories, students should consider the following questions: why did this story make it into the popular news media? What is it saying about bodies in the past? Does this story reveal or reflect contemporary notions of the body as often represented in western media? How do the themes represented in the news stories connect to our course readings thusfar? The presentation and synopsis will each contribute to half of the Internet Assignment grade.

Participation - 20%

Students must demonstrate that they have read the readings and be willing to discuss ideas with classmates. *This will be facilitated by the assignment of each student to the task of moderating one class discussion (schedule to be determined during first day of class).* Assessment of participation will also be based upon the instructor's evaluation of the following criteria:

- Attendance
- Frequency of Communication
- Substance of Communication
- Quality of Questions (very important)
- Evidence of Preparation
- Willingness and Ability to Engage in Give and Take

A report on participation will be provided at the mid-point and at the end of the course.

Essay Proposal – 5%

February 25th in-class

Students will submit a 1-2 page proposal describing the intended focus of their final Essay, its connection to course readings, and any gaps in knowledge it will aim to address. The proposal must be accompanied by a list of referenced publications and a list of other pieces you are aiming to read before writing your Essay.

Class Presentation -15%

All students will present the ideas to be discussed in their Essays. You will have 30 minutes to present and 15 minutes for discussion. Your grade will be based upon the presentation itself (ability to communicate, preparedness, etc.) and your ability to field questions from your classmates.

Essay – 40%

The Essay will relate to themes discussed in, or inspired by, course content.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Readings for this course may be subject to change, but purchasing a copy of Joana Sofaer's *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology* (2006) would be advisable.

In addition to the readings here, we will all read **ONE** article provided to us in advance by each week's student moderator. These articles will provide more specific Case Studies which complement the other weekly readings.

* weeks with a student moderator; number of stars indicates number of moderators

January 7th - Introductions

J. Sofaer

2006 Preface and Chapter 1 "Bodies and boundaries". IN: *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. xiii-11

M. Zuckerman and G Armelagos

2011 The Origins of Biocultural Dimensions in Bioarchaeology. IN: *Social Bioarchaeology*, S. Agarwal and B.Glencross (eds.), pp. 15-43

January 14th - "The Body", Part I

B. Turner

2013 The Turn of the Body. IN: *The Routledge Companion to the Body*, B. Turner (ed.), pp. 1-18

T. Turner

1994 Bodies and anti-bodies: flesh and fetish in contemporary social theory. IN: *Embodiment and Experience: The Existential Ground of Culture and Self* (T. Csordas, ed.), pp. 27-47

N. Scheper-Hughes and M. Lock

1987 The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1(1):6-42

M. Lock and J. Farquhar

2007 Introduction. IN: *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*, M. Lock and J. Farquhar (eds.), pp 1-18.

M. Douglas

2003 The Two Bodies. IN: *Natural symbols: explorations in cosmology*.

- N. Crossley
1996 Body-subject/body-power: agency, inscription and control in Foucault and Merleau-Ponty. *Body and Society* 2(2); 99-116

January 21st - "The Body", Part II

- R. Joyce
2000 Archaeology of the Body. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34:139-158
- J. Sofaer
2006 The body as an archaeological resource. IN: *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. 12-30
- J. Sofaer
2006 The body and convention in archaeological practice. IN: *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. 31-61
- J. Sofaer
2006 Material bodies. IN: *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. 62-88

January 28th - Thinking Embodiment

- M. Mauss
1973 Techniques of the Body. IN *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*, M. Lock and J. Farquhar (eds.), pp; 50-68
- M. Merleau-Ponty
2007 from *The Phenomenology of Perception* (1945). IN *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*, M. Lock and J. Farquhar (eds.), pp; 133-149
- B.S. Turner
2013 Embodied practice: Martin Heidegger, Pierre Bourdieu, and Michel Foucault. IN: *The Routledge Companion to the Body*, B. Turner (ed.), pp. 62-74
- N. Crossley
2013 Phenomenology and the body. IN: *The Routledge Companion to the Body*, B. Turner (ed.), pp. 130-143
- T. Csordas
1988 Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology. *Ethos* 18(1):5-48
- R. Desjarlais and C.J. Throop

2011 Phenomenological Approaches in Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 40: 87-102

T. Bulger and R. Joyce

2013 Archaeology of embodied subjectivities. IN: *A Companion to Gender Prehistory*, (D. Bolger, ed.), pp. 68-85

A. Kjellstrom

2010 Tracing Pain: Identifying Suffering in Skeletal Remains. IN: *Making Sense of Things: Archaeologies of Sensory Perception*, F. Fahlander and A. Kjellstrom (eds.), pp. 51-68

February 4th – Internet Assignment Presentations

(Synopsis due in-class)

February 11th - Sexe?

J. Butler

1993 Bodies that matter. IN: *The Body: A Reader* (M. Fraser and M. Greco, eds.)

J. Sofaer

2006 Sex and Gender. IN: *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. 89-116

J. Sofaer

2012 Bioarchaeological Approaches to the Gendered Body. IN: *A Companion to Gender Prehistory*, D. Bolger (ed.), pp. 226-243

I. Fuglesvedt

2012 Declaration of behalf of an archaeology of Sexe. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*

P. Geller

2005 Skeletal Analysis and Theoretical Complications. *World Archaeology* 37, 597-609.

February 18th – NO CLASS – READING WEEK

February 25th - Age and the Lifecourse

(Essay Proposal due in-class)

J. Sofaer

2006 Age. IN: Chapter 6 in *The Body as Material Culture: A Theoretical Osteoarchaeology*, pp. 117-143

C. Gilleard and P. Higgs

2005 Ageing and its embodiment. IN: *The Body: A Reader* (M. Fraser and M. Greco, eds.), pp. 117-121

M. Lally and T. Arden

2008 Little Artefacts: Rethinking the Constitution of the Archaeological Infant. *Childhood in the Past* 1:67-77

S. Halcrow and N. Tayles

2010 The Archaeological Infant in Biological and Social Context: A Response to Mike Lally and Traci Ardren 2008. Little Artefacts: Rethinking the Constitution of the Archaeological Infant. *Childhood in the Past* 3:123-130

D. Lupton

2013 Infant embodiment and interembodiment: a review of sociocultural perspectives. *Childhood* 20(1):37-50

March 4th - Identity

K. Knudson and C. M. Stojanowski

2008 New directions in bioarchaeology: recent contributions to the study of human social identities. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 16:397-432

D. Gimlin

2010 Imagining the Other in cosmetic surgery. *Body & Society* 16(4):57-76

K. Lorentz

2003 Cultures of Physical Modifications: Child Bodies in Ancient Cyprus. *Stanford Journal of Archaeology* 2: 1-17.

M. Díaz-Andreu and S. Lucy

2005 Introduction. IN: *The Archaeology of Identity: Approaches to Gender, Age, Status, Ethnicity, and Religion*, (M. Díaz-Andreu, S. Lucy, S. Babic, and D. N. Edwards, eds.), pp. 1-12. London: Routledge.

T. Insoll

2007 "Introduction: Configuring Identities in Archaeology. IN: *The Archaeology of Identities: A Reader*, (T. Insoll, ed.), pp. 1-18. New York: Routledge

C. White et al.

2008 Cultural embodiment and the enigmatic identity of the lovers from Lamanai. IN: *Bioarchaeology and Identity in the Americas*, (K. Knudson and C.M. Stojanowski, eds.), pp. 155-176

March 11th - Difference and Sameness

M. Lock and V-K Nguyen

2010 The normal body. IN: *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*, (M. Lock and V-K Nguyen, eds.), pp. 32-56

H. Battles

2011 Toward engagement: exploring the prospects for an integrated anthropology of disability. *Vis-à-vis: Explorations in Anthropology* 11(1):107-124

C. Roberts

2000 Did they take sugar? The use of skeletal evidence in the study of disability in past populations. IN: *Madness, Disability and Social Exclusion: The Archaeology and Anthropology of Difference* (J. Hubert, ed), pp. 46-59.

A. Tsaliki

2008 Unusual burials and necrophobia: an insight into the burial archaeology of fear. IN: *Deviant Burial in the Archaeological Record* (E. Murphy, ed.), pp. 1-17.

L. Gardela and K. Kajkowski

2013 Vampire, criminals or slaves? Reinterpreting 'deviant burials' in early medieval Poland. *World Archaeology*

March 18th - Whose Body?

M. Lock

2007 Alienation of body parts and the biopolitics of immortalized cell lines. IN *Beyond the Body Proper: Reading the Anthropology of Material Life*, M. Lock and J. Farquhar (eds.), pp; 567-577

S. Holm

2011 Removing bodies from display is nonsense. *New Scientist*, March 16 (online)

A. Kakaliouras

2012 An Anthropology of Repatriation: Contemporary Physical Anthropological and Native American Ontologies of Practice. *Current Anthropology* 53(S5):S210-S221

T. Tierney

1999 The Preservation and Ownership of the Body. IN: *Perspectives on Embodiment: The Intersections of Nature and Culture*, (G. Weiss and H Fern Haber, eds.), pp. 233-261

P. Bienkowski

2012 Archaeological knowledge, animist knowledge, and appropriation of the ancient dead. IN: *Heritage from Below* (J.M. Robertson, ed.), pp. 29-58

March 25th – Class Presentations

April 1st – Class Presentations

***** Essays due April 30th – hard copy (via wooden dropbox) & digital (via WebCT)**

A Brief Word on Plagiarism:

Students should remember that all class assignments must be written-up independently of their classmates, in their own words, and give credit where it is due using proper citations. Plagiarism is a serious offence, and students found guilty of having plagiarised the work of others will face severe penalties. Please see more details about the UWO policies here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Graduate Student Health & Wellness at Western:

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and

engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.