

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 3356F-200 – Anthropology and Embodiment
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2026

Date: June 15, 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Block

Method of delivery: Blended

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Registration in third year or above.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

In this course we will use anthropology as a lens to analyze, evaluate and interpret embodiment and bodymind. In the style of an emerging topics course -- weekly readings will be designed to reflect the particular interests of course participants. Possible topics might include: Surveillance and management of bodies in life and death (prisons, hospitals and graveyards etc.); Sex, Gender, and Sexuality; Pregnancy; Performance/Athleticism; Race; Disability; Food Access (choices, barriers); Obesity vs. Fat Pride; Body modification (tattoos, adornment, orthotics, prostheses, assistive technologies), and more. This is a course that welcomes the exploration of borders and boundaries of embodiment as emerging within students' own diverse research interests.

The course will be hybrid synchronous and asynchronous. Students will take turns as discussion leaders (both synchronous and asynchronous components), assignments will include weekly reflections and responses to each others' reflections (OWL discussion Forum), one essay and either another essay or an alternative format assignment.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate meanings of embodiment bodies and bodyminds in diverse local and global political, economic, and social contexts
- Remember terms, definitions, and controversies regarding anthropology and embodiment in relation to sexuality, disability, body modification, performance/athleticism, displacement and other intersections of bodies, identities and spaces and places
- Identify experiences of surveillance and incarceration, storage and management of bodies
- Analyze readings competently and critically
- Work collaboratively with a group of peers to develop shared understandings of class readings and to prepare regular oral presentations on those themes

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Essay or Alternate Format Assignment: By the end of week 2 each student develops a personal goal they want to accomplish during the class which will culminate in a project. **30%**

Weekly Provocations: On Monday for at least 10 weeks of the term students submit a 200–350-word (undergrad) 350-500-word (grad) personal reflection on how the week's readings are relevant (or not) to their personal goal and the progress toward their goal. **30%**

Discussion Leadership: undergrad groups or grad individuals pick the readings and lead the discussion) **20%**

Leadership Reflections: 200-350 words (undergrad) 350-500-word (grad) on the discussion leadership experience with undergrads detailing their individual contribution and reflections on group process **10%**

Peer review and Self-evaluation: Form be submitted at the end class for at least 10 weeks of the term **10%**

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