



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Anthropology of the body and senses - 53898*

*Last update 30-10-2023*

*HU Credits: 4*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Sociology and Anthropology*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: Yearly*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Gili Hammer*

*Coordinator Email: [gili.hammer@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:gili.hammer@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Tue 12:30*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Gili Hammer

Course/Module description:

*This course will offer an introduction to the anthropology of the senses, and will address the anthropological endeavor of “giving taste” to “ethnographic things.” We will address questions such as how culture mediates our sensory experiences, and explore the anthropological understanding of the sensory body. The course will investigate fundamental questions and arguments within anthropology of the senses, and the role of culture in the ways we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch.*

Course/Module aims:

- 1. Introduction to the scholarship of the anthropology of the senses.*
- 2. Learning and understanding central subjects within the anthropology of the senses while analyzing them through theoretical, empirical, and methodological tools.*
- 3. Understanding the sensory body as a cultural category and locating it within a historical-socio-cultural context.*
- 4. Developing critical thinking and interpretation when addressing the sensory body in social life.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1. Understand central concepts and ideas within the anthropology of the senses.*
- 2. Conceptualize the sensory body as a cultural category, locating it within a historical and social context, and connecting it with additional social affiliations.*
- 3. Interpret empirical case studies within the anthropology of the body*
- 4. Analyze and interpret theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues within the anthropology of the senses.*
- 5. Practice and experience critical reading of course materials and develop academic writing skills.*
- 6. Writing research paper on the subject.*

Attendance requirements(%):

100

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and seminar*

Course/Module Content:

*The sensory body as cultural concept, historical and cultural analysis of the*

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senses, research in visual culture, gender and visual culture, blindness and sight, sonic culture, senses and power, tactility and movement, space and technology, senses and disability, multi-sensory methodology.

### Required Reading:

- דאנדס, אלן. 1997. לראות, משמע: להאמין. שוקד משה ודשן שלמה (עורכים). החוויה הבין תרבותית, מקראה באנתרופולוגיה. ירושלים ותל אביב: הוצאת שוקן: 31-37. (קיים באנגלית)  
כנען, חגי. 2008. פנימדיבור: לראות אחרת בעקבות עמנואל לוינס. תל אביב: הקיבוץ המאוחד: 11-24.
- מאלווי, לורה. [1975] 2006. עונג חזותי וקולנוע נרטיבי. ללמוד פמיניזם: מקראה (עורכות: דלית באום ואחרות), תל אביב: הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד, סדרת מגדרים: 118-133.
- בורחס, חורחה לואיס. 2007. "עיוורון", בתוך: שבעה לילות. תל-אביב הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד: 139-123. (קיים גם באנגלית)
- אלאור, תמר, שנהב, יהודה. 2002. "על העיוורון" וקטסטרופות אחרות: בדיון, ממשות ועבודה סוציולוגית. סוציולוגיה ישראלית 4 (1): 193-207.
- גרוס, נורה אלן. 2009. כולם כאן דיברו שפת סימנים: חירשות תורשתית במרת'ז ויניארד; תרגום מאנגלית רז קטלן. כרמל.
- Cohen Bull, Cynthia. 1997. "Senses, Meaning and Perception in Three Dance Cultures", in: Desmond J. (ed.) *Meaning in Motion*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Kuppers, P. 2015. *Embodiment, Environment, Disability Culture: Learning to Feel Ourselves in Space*. *Disability Studies Quarterly* 35(2).
- Classen, Constance. 1997. *Foundations for an Anthropology of The Senses*. *International Social Science* 49(153): 401-412
- Geurts, Kathryn Linn. 2015. *Senses*. In *Keywords for Disability Studies*. New York: NYU Press: 161-163.
- Howes, David. 1991. Introduction: 'To summon all the senses'. In: *The Varieties of Sensory Experience: A Sourcebook in The Anthropology of The Senses*, (edited by D. Howes). Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 1-21.
- Ong, Walter. J. 1982. *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of The Word*. London: Methuen: 1-3, 117-138.
- Haldrup, Michael., Koefoed, Lasse., and Simonsen, Kirsten. 2006. *Practical Orientalism - Bodies, Everyday Life and the Construction of Otherness*. *Geografiska Annaler, Series B: Human Geography* 88(2): 173-184.
- Sparkes, Andrew. C. 2009. *Ethnography and The Senses: Challenges and Possibilities*. *Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise* 1(1): 21-35.
- Berger, John. 1975. *Ways of Seeing*. London: British Broadcasting Corporation: 36-81.
- Kleege, Georgina. 2005. *Blindness and Visual Culture: An Eyewitness Account*. *Journal of Visual Culture* 4 (2): 179-190.
- Kleege, Georgina. 2006. *Visible Braille/Invisible Blindness*. *Journal of Visual Culture* 5(2): 209-218.
- Kheshti, Roshanak. 2009. *Acoustigraphy: Soundspace as Ethnographic Field*. *Anthropology News* 50(4): 15-19.

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Rice, T. 2010. Learning To Listen: Auscultation and the Transmission of Auditory Knowledge. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 16(s1): S41-S61.

Vannini, Phillip., Waskul, Dennis., Gottschalk, Simon., and Rambo, Carol. 2010. Sound Acts: Elocution, Somatic Work, and the Performance of Sonic Alignment. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 39(3): 328-353.

Rice, T. 2008. "Beautiful Murmurs": Stethoscopic Listening and Acoustic Objectification. *The Senses and Society* 3(3): 293-306.

Wilf, E. 2015. Modernity, Cultural Anesthesia, and Sensory Agency: Technologies of the Listening Self in a US Collegiate Jazz Music Program. *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology* 80(1): 1-22.

Renshaw, Sarah. 2009. Book review: *Designing The Sensorium, The Eyes of The Skin: Architecture and the Senses*, by Juhani Pallasmaa. *The Senses & Society* 4(2): 247-251

Brueggemann, Brenda Jo., Garland-Thomson, Rosemarie, Kleege Georgina., 2005. What her body taught (or teaching about and with a disability): A conversation. *Feminist Studies* 31(1): 13-33.

Kuppers, Petra. 2014. *Studying Disability Arts and Culture: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Stoller, Paul. 1989. *The Taste of Ethnographic Things: The Senses in Anthropology*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press: 1-11.

Geurts, K. L. (2002). On Rocks, Walks, and Talks In West Africa: Cultural Categories and an Anthropology of the Senses. *Ethos*, 30(3), 178-198.  
doi:10.1525/eth.2002.30.3.178

Additional Reading Material:

TBA

Grading Scheme:

Other 100 %

Additional information:

Reading reports 20%  
Class presentation: 10%  
Final semester paper 70%