

# ANTH 87: Global Beauty (First Year Seminar)

Version 28 September 2017

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Fall 2017 | Thursday 4:00-4:50 | SSB 269 (Spiro Library)

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

## Course Description:

This first year seminar examines ideas around beauty, body modification, and social transformation with a focus on culture and power in the USA and East Asia. We will explore racialized practices such as skin lightening and darkening, cosmetic surgery of the eyes and nose, fatness, tattooing, hair styling, and the recent popularity of Korean beauty products. While the topic for this course is global beauty, my primary goal is to get students involved in critical seminar style discussions and to practice oral presentation skills. Participation is paramount. There are no quizzes, exams, or papers. Each student will participate in a group presentation and an individual presentation.

## Learning Outcomes:

The goal of this course is to increase student interest and participation in anthropological and other socio-cultural research.

- 1 Students will be able to consider an anthropological concept of beauty that attends to biological, socio-cultural, and historical perspectives.
- 2 Students will be able to assess how local and global perspectives of beauty differ.
- 3 Students will practice the presentation of key concepts and new ideas.
- 4 Students will be introduced to how research methodologies are related to topics of interest.

## Assessment:

	Grade	Pass/Not	Due
Participation	60	60	***
Group Presentation	20	20	***
Individual Presentation	20	20	12/7/2017
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 90-92	B+ 87-89	B 83-86	B- 80-82
C+ 77-79	C 73-76	C- 70-72	Pass	D 60-69	F 0-59

## **Important Dates to Remember:**

10/13/2017 Last Day to Add

10/27/2017 Last Day to Change Grading Option or Drop without "W"

**Communication:** Email communication is preferred. Please note that it may take up to **48 hours** to get a response to your email. Please **include ANTH 87 in the subject line** of your email. If you have a question, please first consult documents on TritonEd (e.g. syllabus, assignment instructions), ask another student, then ask your TA, or the professor. When writing me, you do not need to write "Dear Professor" and other niceties in your email. Just ask away.

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## **Required Materials:**

There is no text book required for this course. All readings are posted as PDFs or web links on TritonEd.

**Absence, Late Work, and Related Policies:** Attendance is required. You are allowed to miss **two sessions** without consequence. Students will be docked 10 points from the participation score for each absence beyond the second.

**Professionalism Policy:** Please attend to all university policy and classroom etiquette procedures. Those not heeding the policies will be asked to leave the classroom immediately to maintain the learning environment. Please arrive on time, be attentive, and be respectful for all class meetings. Be mindful of how much time and space you are occupying. Try not to interrupt others when they have the floor. Be open to hearing various points of view that may conflict and be contentious but *do not expect to feel comfortable at all times*. Expect to be challenged mentally and emotionally. Students who are habitually disruptive in class by talking out of turn, bullying other students, or other unprofessional behavior may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. UCSD recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. *Hostility toward other students will not be tolerated*. **Free speech does not permit harassment, intimidation, threats, or other behaviors that impede the learning of other students or the work of faculty and staff.**

**Academic Conduct Policy:** UCSD expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of our intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in planning and supervising academic work, so that honest effort will be upheld. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work or ideas as one's own. All suspected instances of plagiarism will be reported (<http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>). Verification will result in a 0 grade for the assignment. It is against policy to submit the same paper for credit in more than one course.

**Tutoring:** The Office of Academic Support & Instructional Services (OASIS) offer free, one-on-one tutoring for students (<https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/oasis/>). Tutoring services are designed to guide students to the point at which they become independent learners, no longer needing a tutor.

**Disability Access:** Students requesting accommodations and services for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Receipt of AFAs is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. Students are required to present their AFA letters to the instructor and to the OSD Liaison in the department so that accommodations may be arranged. Documentation should, if at all possible, be provided before any activity in which accommodation is requested. Contact the OSD for further information: (858) 534.4382 (V); (858) 534-9709 (TTY); [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu), or <http://osd.ucsd.edu>.

**Title IX Compliance:** Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that are recipients of federal funds. Students have the right to an educational environment that is free from harassment and discrimination. *Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated*. This includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, **I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator**. Should you want to speak to a confidential source, you

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may contact the Counseling Center. The Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD) provides assistance to students, faculty, and staff regarding reports of bias, harassment, and discrimination. Students have options for reporting incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Information about reporting options may be obtained at OPHD at (858) 534-8298, [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu) or <http://ophd.ucsd.edu>. Students may receive confidential assistance at CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center at (858) 534-5793, [sarc@ucsd.edu](mailto:sarc@ucsd.edu) or <http://care.ucsd.edu> or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (858) 534-3755 or <http://caps.ucsd.edu>.

\*This syllabus is open to modification throughout the quarter. While I will ensure that the overall grading system remains in place, the schedule, topics, readings, and activities may change.  
**Please note that I will always consult students in class before making a major change.**

### Class schedule

#### **9/28 Why anthropology? My research and perspective.**

Developing Research Questions

Research Design – Not Just Experiments

Looks Discrimination

#### **10/5 Beauty, Culture, and Power: Why does beauty matter? How does beauty matter?**

\*Katz 1995 “The Importance of Being Beautiful”

\*Turner, Terence S. 1980. “The Social Skin.” In *Not work alone: A cross-cultural view of activities superfluous to survival*, edited by Jeremy Cherfas and Roger Lewin, 112–140. London: Temple Smith. Reprinted 2012 *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 2(2): 486–504.

Discussion: How does beauty relate to social status and belonging?

#### **10/12 Beauty, Culture, and Power: Gender and Agency**

\*Kwan, Samantha and Mary Nell Trautner. 2009. “Beauty Work: Individual and Institutional Rewards, the Reproduction of Gender, and Questions of Agency.” *Sociology Compass* 3(1): 49–71.

Discussion: How does beauty relate to social stratification, gender, and agency?

#### **10/19 Body Modification: Gender and Race**

\*Holliday, Ruth and Joanna Elfving-Hwang. 2012. “Gender, globalization and aesthetic surgery in South Korea.” *Body & Society* 18(2):58-81.

Discussion: How does beauty relate to social stratification, globalization, and race?

#### **10/26 Body Modification: Gender and Race**

\*Tuvel, Rebecca 2017 “In Defense of Transracialism.” *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. 32(2): 263–278.

Discussion: Transgenderism vs. Transracialism – Are they equivalent body modifications?

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**11/2 Group Presentations** (2 or 3 of 10-15 minutes)

**11/9 Group Presentations** (2 or 3 of 10-15 minutes)

**11/16 Group Presentations** (2 or 3 of 10-15 minutes)

## Possible Topics

Skin: Whitened or Darkened

Hair: Processed or "Natural"

Eyes: Size and Shape, Color

Nose: Straightened, Thinned, or Bridged

Body Size: Short or Tall, Fat or Thin, Body Building

Cosmetic Surgery: Breast or Buttock Implants, Hymen Reconstruction

Tattoos, Piercing, or Scarification

Beauty and Health

Eating Disorders

Evolution and Beauty

Beauty Standards in Various Cultures / Historical Periods

Japanese trends

Korean cosmetics

11/23 No Class: Thanksgiving

11/30 No Class: American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings (work on your presentations)

12/7 **Student Presentations** (2 minutes each)

What is a topic of interest to you? How would you go about researching this topic?