SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY 19 SEM 6: Fiat Lux Freshman Seminars: Sociology of Fatness
Spring 2006
Tuesday, 4-4:50 PM
Haines A20
http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/06S/soc19-6/

Professor Abigail Saguy (accent on the second syllable, which rhymes with tea)
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Course Statement

In the contemporary United States, body fat is commonly reviled as ugly, a sign of immorality, and unhealthy. But in other societies, subgroups, and earlier historical periods in the U.S., body fat has been considered a sign of wealth, health, and moral goodness. This class will examine how distinct meanings of fatness and thinness are socially constructed and the implications of these understandings for social inequality, medical knowledge, and self-realization.

Evaluation

• This class is P/F.
• To pass the class, you must attend regularly and participate in discussion. If you miss more than two classes, you will not pass this class. Similarly, if you are consistently unprepared for discussion, you will – after a warning – not pass this class.

Required texts

• Don Kulick and Anne Meneley, eds., 2005, *Fat: The Anthropology of an Obsession*
• Electronic copies of additional readings from other sources will be posted to the class website.

Detailed Schedule

Week 1, April 4: Introduction
• No readings due this week, but be sure to have finished the reading for Week 2 before class on April 11.
Week 2, April 11
• Susan Bordo, 1993, Unbearable Weight, Introduction (pp. 1-42.)

Week 3, April 18
• Susan Bordo, 1993, “Whose Body Is This? Feminism, Medicine and the Conceptualization of Eating Disorders,” In Bordo, Unbearable Weight (pp. 45-69.)

Week 4, April 25

Week 5
• Allyson Mitchell, 2005, “Pissed Off” In Kulick and Menely, eds. Fat. (pp. 211-225).

Week 6, May 9
• Susan Bordo, 1993, “Reading the Slender Body,” In Bordo, Unbearable Weight (pp. 185-212.)

Week 7, May 16
• Rebecca Popenoe, 2005, “Ideal” In Kulick and Menely, eds. Fat. (pp. 9-28)
• Joan Gross, 2005, “Phat” In Kulick and Menely, eds. Fat. (pp. 63-76)

Week 8, May 23
• Susan Bordo, 1993, “Hunger as Ideology,” In Bordo, Unbearable Weight (pp. 99-134.)

Week 9, May 30
• Don Kulick, 2005, “Porn” In Kulick and Menely, eds. Fat. (pp. 9-28)
• Matti Bunzl, 2005, “Chasers” In Kulick and Menely, eds. Fat. (pp. 199-210)

Week 10: June 6