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**Título:**

**Autor:**

**Precio:** \$840.00

**Editorial:**

**Año:** 2006

**Tema:**

**Edición:** 2ª

**Sinopsis**

**ISBN:** 0761942858

Praise for the First Edition:

'Essential to any collection of work on the body, health and illness, or social theory' - Choice

'Sophisticated \_ and acutely perceptive of the importance of the complex dialectic between social institutions, culture and biological conditions' - Times Higher Education Supplement

'Chris Shilling has done us all a splendid service in bringing together and illustrating the tremendous diversity and richness of sociological thinking on the topic of human embodiment and its implications' - Sociological Review

This updated edition of the bestselling text retains all the strengths of the first edition. Chris Shilling: provides a critical survey of the field; demonstrates how developments in diet, sexuality, reproductive technology, genetic engineering and sports science have made the body a site for social alternatives and individual choices; and elucidates the practical uses of theory in striking and accessible ways.

In addition, new, original material: explores the latest feminist, phenomenological and action-oriented approaches to the body; examines the latest work on 'body projects' and the relationship between the body and self-identity; and outlines a compelling theoretical framework that provides a radical basis for the consolidation of body studies.