

## **070-223: Anthropology of Latin America**

**Fall 2009**

Prof.

Tues/Thur 2:15-3:35, CDL 109

Office hours: Wed 3:45-4:30 in RAB 303; Tues/Thurs 1-2 in Corwin B

Tel: 2-0534

Email: [dgoldstein@anthropology.rutgers.edu](mailto:dgoldstein@anthropology.rutgers.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Stephen Merritt

Office hours: 12-1 in BIO 203D

Email: [srm55@eden.rutgers.edu](mailto:srm55@eden.rutgers.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course provides an overview of the diverse societies of Latin America from an anthropological perspective. It explores the cultural, economic, political and religious aspects of life in this large and diverse region. Themes that we will focus on include concepts of race, ethnicity and gender as they appear in Latin America; political and economic processes; urbanization and migration; festival, spectacle and ritual; religion; and indigenous social movements. Much of the material we will read comes from the region of Latin America that I know best – the Andes – and I will be calling on my own field experience to illustrate many of the themes we will be discussing.

### **Course Objectives**

My objectives for you in this course are that you become familiar with the diverse ways of life in Latin America, understanding that the region is not uniform but tremendously diverse. I want you to learn the geography of Latin America, and come to know something of its history and contemporary reality. In particular, I hope you'll come to understand Latin America not as a bounded region but as part of an integrated globe that includes the United States. The assessments in the class are designed to evaluate your understanding of these broad themes, as well as the specific details of the material studied. Whatever your major or future career, my goal is that by the end of the course you will have a much greater understanding of Latin America and its place in the larger world. More broadly, the objectives of the class are for you to develop a familiarity with the anthropological approach to its subject, improved speaking and writing skills, an ability to discuss and analyze information, and a willingness to tolerate ambiguity and the unfamiliar when they disrupt your certainties about the world.

### **Requirements**

1. Attendance You are required to attend all class meetings, and I take attendance daily. We cover a lot of material in class, all of it potentially appearing on the exams, so missing any class session can be costly. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; instead, I give you three free passes to miss class for any reason. After you use up those three absences, each additional absence will reduce your grade by 5 points. Of course, if you have a severe illness or family emergency that causes you to miss multiple classes, I will accept a Dean's note excusing you, though you will be expected to make up the work you missed. If you have concerns about your attendance record, please consult with me in office hours.

2. Lateness I do not like late arrivals to class – it shows a disrespect for your professor, your studies, and your fellow classmates. I do realize, though, that sometimes lateness is unavoidable. Therefore, like at the opera, we will have one late seating. Students arriving late to class will have to wait in the hall until I admit them to the classroom, usually about 15 minutes after the start of class. Do not open the door if it is closed. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class, and it will count as one absence.

3. Reading and participation Please do all the assigned readings for each class meeting. Being prepared for class is necessary for full comprehension of the lectures and engaged participation in class discussions. Participation involves being alert and taking notes during lectures; asking questions to clarify points of misunderstanding; engaging actively in small-group activities; and contributing meaningfully and often to discussions. Keeping up with the readings is the best way to be sure you are ready to participate.

4. Evaluations and grading Your grade in the course will be based on your comprehension of the materials studied, using different types of evaluation. You will be graded out of a total of 100 points for the semester.

- Pop Quizzes (15 pts) – There are 4 pop quizzes during the course of the semester; you may drop your lowest quiz grade (quizzes count for 5 points each). No make up quizzes will be given.
- Map Quiz (10 pts) – There is also a map quiz early in the semester (Thurs Sep 10). You will be expected to be able to identify countries, capitals, and major geographical features. A study map is available on the course Sakai site.
- Film Reviews (10 pts) – During the course of the semester, you must write two film reviews, worth 5 points each, one during each half of the semester (i.e., one before the midterm, one after). You may choose which films you want to write about; reviews should not summarize the film content, but should offer a critical take (positive or negative) on the film. *Reviews must be submitted within one week of the film's showing in class.* Grading criteria are as follows:
  - Follows protocols (1 pt) – typed, double-spaced, one page maximum, hard copies only, handed in on time.
  - Shows critical insight (3 pts) – paper doesn't just summarize, but offers a unique insight on the film: relates it to what we are doing in class, makes connections to other topics or issues studied in this or other classes, relates to the student's personal life, etc.
  - Neatness and completeness (1 pt) – work shows evidence that the student did careful work: well-written, no typos, good grammar, etc.
- Exams (65 pts) – There is one midterm exam (30 points) and one non-cumulative final exam (35 points), which will be held on the day assigned by the University.

5. Grading Scale A = 90 and above; B+ = 88-89; B = 80-87; C+ = 78-79; C = 70-77; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below

6. Films We see many films in this class – I view them as an important visual resource for learning about Latin America without actually going there. If you miss class on a day when a film is shown, you are still responsible for seeing it – all films are listed on the syllabus with the Media Center call number, and will be held on reserve at Douglass Music Library for one week following their show date. There will be questions about the films on each exam. In addition, you will have to write two film reviews, as described above.

7. Academic Integrity All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available as part of the student handbook. Details: <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html#Integrity>

### Course Readings

Three books are required for purchase at the Cook/Douglass Coop Bookstore and at the CAC Bookstore. Additional course readings are available for electronic download from the course Sakai site.

Davidson, Miriam. 2000. *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the U.S.-Mexico Border*. Tucson: U Arizona Press.  
 Sanabria, Harry. 2007. *The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Boston: Pearson.  
 Sawyer, Suzana. 2004. *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*. Durham: Duke University Press.

### Course Schedule

Please do all of the following readings by the day indicated on the syllabus. Unless otherwise noted, all readings are available for download from the course Sakai site.

Tues 1 Sep – Introduction to the course

Thurs 3 Sep– Doing anthropology in Latin America

- Sanabria, Chapter 1
- Goldstein, Daniel M. (2002) “*Desconfianza* and Problems of Representation in Urban Ethnography”
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (1993) “Introduction: Tropical Sadness,” in *Death Without Weeping*

*Tues 8 Sep – Monday classes meet; no Anthro 223 today*

Thurs 10 Sep – A brief history of Latin America

- Sanabria, Chapters 2 and 4

*And: Map quiz today!*

Tues 15 Sep – Colonialism's legacies: Race in Latin America

- Sanabria, Chapter 5

Thurs 17 Sep – Race, ethnicity and gender

- Sheriff, Robin E. (2003) "Embracing Race: Deconstructing Mestiçagem in Rio de Janeiro."
- Seligmann, Linda (1993) "To Be In Between: The *Cholas* as Market Women"
- + Film: "Mirrors of the Heart" (2-1916)

Tues 22 Sep – Gender and sexuality in Latin America

- Sanabria, Chapter 6

Thurs 24 Sep – Peasant and agrarian economies

- Nietschmann, Bernard (1974) "When the Turtle Collapses, the World Ends"
- Wolf, Eric (1957) "Closed Corporate Peasant Communities in Mesoamerica and Central Java"
- + Film: "In Good Hands: Culture and Agriculture in the Lacandón Rainforest" (2-2725)

Tues 29 Sep – Urbanization and urban life: Rural-urban migration

- Lewis, Oscar. "The Folk-Urban Ideal Types"
- Paerregaard, Karsten. "Imagining a place in the Andes"

Thurs 1 Oct – Urbanization and urban life: Crime, violence, and poverty

- Goldstein, Daniel M. (2005) "Flexible Justice: Neoliberal Violence and Self-Help Security in Bolivia" (on reserve)
- Caldeira, Teresa P.R. (1999) "Fortified Enclaves"
- + Film: "Nowhere else to live" (10-1178)

Tues 6 Oct – Latin American religion

- Sanabria, Chapter 7
- Allen, Catherine J. (1981) "To Be Quechua: The Symbolism of Coca Chewing in Highland Peru"
- + Film: "Day of the Dead" (2-6564)

Thurs 8 Oct – Popular Culture

- Sanabria, Chapter 11
- + Film: "Mundo Milagroso" (2-5708)

Tues 13 Oct – Health, healing, illness and nutrition

- Sanabria, Chapter 8; SHOWED PART OF RX FOR SURVIVAL, PETER G.

Thurs 15 Oct – Health and medicine, cont.

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. (1992) "Nervoso: Medicine, Sickness and Human Needs"
- + Film: "The Shaman's Apprentice" (2-7567)

*Tues 20 Oct – Midterm Exam*

Thurs 22 Oct – Latin American food

- Sanabria, Chapter 9

Tues 27 Oct – Globalization and neoliberalism

- Sanabria, Chapter 10 – showed The Big Sellout

Thurs 29 Oct – Neoliberalism's impact in Latin America

- Sawyer, *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 1-56 – cont the Big Sellout, postponed What in the World till Tues 11/5
- + Film: "What in the world? Ecuador" (2-7129)

Tues 3 Nov – More on Latin American economies in global perspective

- Sawyer, *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 57-90
- + Film: "Ropa Americana" (10-1142) – postponed this film, showed What in the World (BAD SOUND QUALITY ON THIS TAPE)

Thurs 5 Nov – Indigenous people today: Indigenous identity and social movements

- Sawyer, chapter 3
- + Films from the Chiapas Media Project, titles TBA (private collection, not on reserve) SHOWED ROPA AMERICANA, AND THE LAND BELONGS TO THOSE WHO WORK IT

Tues 10 Nov – Democracy, citizenship, and the law I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ON THIS TOPIC, SHOWED PLANTING A SEED and RECLAIMING JUSTICE

- Sawyer, chapters 5 and 6

Thurs 12 Nov – Case study: Bolivian tin mining CANCELED THIS, DID ROLE PLAY INSTEAD

- Nash, June (1995) "Cultural Resistance and Class Consciousness in Bolivian Tin Mining Communities"
- + Film: "Children of the Silver Mountain" (10-1139)

Tues 17 Nov – Coca, cocaine, and the war on drugs HAVE TO REDO PPT FROM PDF

- Farthing, Linda (1997) "Social Impacts Associated with Anti-drug law 1008"
- Farthing, Linda (2006) excerpts, "Background Reading on the Drug War"
- Bourgois, Philippe (1989) "Crack in Spanish Harlem: Culture and Economy in the Inner City."

Thurs 19 Nov – War on drugs, war on terror

- For today – explore the website of WOLA (the Washington Office on Latin America) at [www.wola.org](http://www.wola.org), and read *one current article* on drug policy and its impacts in the Americas (on the left of the screen, point to "Programs," then click "Drug Policy" on the pop-up menu)
- + Film: "Coca Mama" (2-5739)
- THIS IS INTERESTING [http://current.com/items/89845362\\_narco-war-next-door.htm](http://current.com/items/89845362_narco-war-next-door.htm)

Tues 24 Nov – On the border

- Davidson, *Lives on the Line*, Introduction
- Garcia, Maribel (2006) "Life Along the NAFTA Highway: Transnational Living Strategies on the US/Mexico Border"
- +Film today: "Life on the Line" (10-1143) NOT SO INTERESTING

Thurs 26 Nov – No class: Thanksgiving

Tue 1 Dec – On the border, cont.

- Davidson, *Lives on the Line*, Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Thurs 3 Dec – Conflicts between north and south

- Davidson, *Lives on the Line*, Chapters 4, 5 and Conclusion
- + Film: "Crossing Arizona" (10-1154)

Tues 8 Dec – Immigration and the new frontier

- Inda, Jonathan Xavier (2000) "A Flexible World: Capitalism, Citizenship, and Post-National Zones"
- Mountz, Alison, and Richard Wright (1996) "Daily Life in the Transnational Migrant Community of San Agustín, Oaxaca, and Poughkeepsie, New York" ENDED UP SHOWING THE BOLIVIA MINES MOVIE ON THIS DAY, GAVE LAST POP QUIZ

Thurs 10 Dec – Violence, memory, and striving for a just world  
• Sanabria, Chapter 12