

070-223: Anthropology of Latin America

Fall 2008

Prof.

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

Office hours: Mon 2-3 in RAB 303; Tues 1-2 in Corwin Bldg B

Tel: 2-9887; 2-0534

Email: dgoldstein@anthropology.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 11). 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. Films We see a great 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.

6. 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

Course readings are available for electronic download from the course Sakai site. In addition, two books are required for purchase at the Cook/Douglass Coop Bookstore:

- Allen, Catherine. 2002. *The Hold Life Has: Coca and Cultural Identity in an Andean Community*. Second Edition. Washington: Smithsonian Press.
- Sawyer, Suzana. 2004. *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Course Schedule

The course schedule below is organized by week. By the date listed, I expect you to have read all of the readings for that week; reading in advance of class is critical to your comprehension of the classroom lectures, films, and activities. Where possible, read the articles in the order listed.

Thurs 4 Sep – Introduction to the course

Tues 9 Sep – Colonialism and its legacies: Race, ethnicity, and gender

Read by today:

- Colloredo-Mansfeld, Rudi (1998) “Dirty Indians, Radical *Indigenas*, and the Political Economy of Social Difference in Modern Ecuador” (on reserve)
- Seligmann, Linda (1993) “To Be In Between: The *Cholas* as Market Women” (on reserve)

Thurs Sep 11 – map quiz today! Also a film: “Mirrors of the Heart” (2-1916)

Tues 16 Sep – Colonial legacies and post-colonial impacts: Latin America and the world economy

- Nietschmann, Bernard (1974) “When the Turtle Collapses, the World Ends” (on reserve)
- Wolf, Eric (1957) “Closed Corporate Peasant Communities in Mesoamerica and Central Java” (on reserve)
- Allen, *The Hold Life Has*, Chapter Two: “The Web of Reciprocity”

Film today: “In Good Hands: Culture and Agriculture in the Lacandón Rainforest” (2-2725)

Tues 23 Sep – Indigenous people today: Indigenous identity and social movements

- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pages 1-87

Film today: from the Chiapas Media Project, titles TBA (private collection)

Thurs 25 Sep – Guest lecture, Suzana Sawyer

Tues 30 Sep – Rosh Hashanah/No class today – But, viewing of Part 1 of “City of God” (and on reserve 10-317)

Thurs 2 Oct – Globalization, neoliberalism and post-neoliberal reforms

- Sawyer, chapters 3, 5, and 6

Film today: “What in the world? Ecuador” (2-7129)

Tues 7 Oct – Urbanization and urban life

- Lewis, Oscar (1965) “The Folk-Urban Ideal Types” (on reserve)
- Paerregaard, Karsten (1996) “Imagining a place in the Andes” (on reserve)
- Goldstein, Daniel M. (2000) “Names, Places, and Power: The Politics of Identity in the Miss Oruro Pageant, Cochabamba, Bolivia” (on reserve)

Thurs 9 Oct – Yom Kippur/No class today – But, viewing of Part 2 of “City of God” (and on reserve 10-317)

Tues 14 Oct – Crime, violence, democracy, and the law

- Goldstein, Daniel M. (2005) “Flexible Justice: Neoliberal Violence and Self-Help Security in Bolivia” (on reserve)
- Caldeira, Teresa P.R. (1999) “Fortified Enclaves” (on reserve)

Film today: “Nowhere else to live” (10-1178)

Tues 21 Oct – Lecture catch-up/Midterm review

Thurs 23 Oct – Midterm Exam Today

Tues 28 Oct – Doing anthropology in Latin America

- Chagnon, Napoleon (1992) “Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo”
- Goldstein, Daniel M. (2002) “*Desconfianza* and Problems of Representation in Urban Ethnography” (on reserve)
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. (1993) “Introduction: Tropical Sadness,” in *Death Without Weeping* (on reserve)

Thurs 30 Oct – Film: “A Man Called Bee” (2-2002)

Tues 4 Nov – Festivals, rituals and spectacles

- Selka, Stephen (2008) “The Sisterhood of Boa Morte in Brazil: Harmonious Mixture, Black Resistance, and the Politics of Religious Practice” (on reserve)
- Nash, June (1995) “Cultural Resistance and Class Consciousness in Bolivian Tin Mining Communities” (on reserve)

Film today: “Samba: On your feet” (10-1144)

Thurs 6 Nov – Film: “Children of the Silver Mountain” (10-1139)

Tues 11 Nov – An indigenous cosmology

- Allen, *The Hold Life Has*, Introduction and Chapters 3, 4 and 5

Film: “Day of the Dead” (2-6564)

Thurs 13 Nov – Film: “Mundo Milagroso” (2-5708)

Tues 18 Nov – Religious customs and beliefs: The coca leaf

- Allen, *The Hold Life Has*, Chapters 6 and 9, Epilogue, and Afterward to the Second Edition

Thurs 20 Nov – Film: “Cocalero” (10-1156)

Tues 25 Nov – Coca, cocaine, and the war on drugs

- Farthing, Linda (1997) “Social Impacts Associated with Anti-drug law 1008” (on reserve)
- Farthing, Linda (2006) excerpts, “Background Reading on the Drug War” (on reserve)
- AND – explore the website of WOLA (the Washington Office on Latin America) at 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 today: “Coca Mama” (2-5739) 52 min

Thurs 27 Nov – Thanksgiving/No class today

Tues 2 Dec – On the border

- Garcia, Maribel (2006) “Life Along the NAFTA Highway: Transnational Living Strategies on the US/Mexico Border” (on reserve)
- Davidson, Miriam (2000), excerpt from *Lives on the Line: Dispatches from the US/Mexico Border* (on reserve)

Film today: “Life on the Line” (10-1143)

Thurs 4 Dec – Film: “Crossing Arizona” (10-1154)

Tues 9 Dec – Immigration and the new frontier

- Inda, Jonathan Xavier (2000) “A Flexible World: Capitalism, Citizenship, and Post-National Zones” (on reserve)
- Mountz, Alison, and Richard Wright (1996) “Daily Life in the Transnational Migrant Community of San Augustin, Oaxaca, and Poughkeepsie, New York” (on reserve)

Film today: “Ropa Americana” (10-1142)