

**070:223: Anthropology of Latin America  
Fall 2011**

Prof.

Mon/Wed 3:55-5:15, CDL 102

Office Hours: Mon 2-3:30, Wed 1:30-3:30 in RAB 303

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### **Course Description**

Though we – as anthropologists and as citizens of the modern world – often think of the globe as divided into discrete regions, in fact the world today is characterized by deep and cross-cutting ties, making the attempt to define and study bounded world areas increasingly problematic. In the case of Latin America, it has long been a fact that the region we think of as “south of the border” is and for centuries has been deeply tied to North American political, economic, cultural and social life. This course, which focuses on the Anthropology of Latin America, takes as its basic theme the idea that societies of the Western hemisphere are profoundly and inseparably interconnected as part of a single region, the Americas. The course, then, provides an overview of the diverse societies of these Americas from an anthropological perspective. It explores the cultural, economic, political and religious aspects of life in this large and diverse region, emphasizing the many ways in which globalization has produced a hemisphere of complex and enduring interconnections.

### **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, its history of colonialism and its post-colonial 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.

**This course satisfies SAS Core Curriculum Learning Goal I: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges –STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:**

**a. Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person’s experiences of and perspectives on the world.**

## Requirements

1. Attendance You are required to attend all class meetings, and I take attendance regularly. 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 course grade by 5 points (though it will not reduce it lower than 60% - I will not fail you on the basis of attendance). Of course, if you have a severe illness or family emergency that causes you to miss multiple classes, I will allow you to make up the work you missed. In any event, you may use the new online absence reporting system to register your absence (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>), and an email will automatically be sent to me. 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 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, regardless of the excuse.
- Map Quiz (5 pts) – There is also a map quiz early in the semester (Mon 12 Sep). You will be expected to be able to identify countries, capitals, and major geographical features of the Americas. A study map is available on the course Sakai site.
- Essay (25 pts) – You will write a 5-7 page essay on a topic to be assigned. The paper is due on Wednesday, Nov. 16 at the start of class. Grades will be assessed based on the following rubric:
  - Follows protocols (5 pts) – typed, double-spaced, one page maximum, hard copies only, handed in on time. Grades will be reduced 5 points for each day that the paper is late.
  - Shows critical insight (15 pts) – paper doesn't just summarize, but offers insight into the question asked; response 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 experience, etc. Question is answered thoroughly and correctly.

- Neatness and completeness (5 pts) – essay shows evidence that the student did careful work: well-written, no typos, good grammar, etc.
- Exams (55 pts) – There is one midterm exam (25 points) and one non-cumulative final exam (30 points), which will be held on the day assigned by the University.

5. Films We see a number of 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 – most films are listed on the syllabus with the library call number, and will be held on reserve at the Media Center in Douglass Library for one week following their show date. There will be questions about the films on each exam.

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://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

## Course Readings

Course readings are available for electronic download from the course Sakai site. In addition, two books are required for purchase at both the Rutgers BN Bookstore and NJ Books:

Gutmann, Matthew. 2006. *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*. Second edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

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.

Wed 7 Sep – Introduction to the course

Thurs 8 Sep – Doing anthropology in Latin America

- Goldstein, Daniel M. 2002. “Desconfianza and Problems of Representation in Urban Ethnography.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 75(3):485-517.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1993. “Introduction: Tropical Sadness.” *In Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Pp. 1-30. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Mon 12 Sep – Conquest and colonization of the Americas (**Map quiz today!**)

- Chasteen, John Charles. 2001. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. New York: Norton. Chapter 2, “Encounter” (pp. 29-62).

- Todorov, Tzvetan. 1984. *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other*. New York: Harper & Row. "Columbus and the Indians" and "Equality or Inequality" (pp. 34-50 and 146-167).

Wed 14 Sep - Colonialism's legacies: Race in Latin America

- Chasteen, John Charles. 2001. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. New York: Norton. "Race Mixing," 84-87.
  - Wade, Peter. 2005. "Rethinking Mestizaje: Ideology and Lived Experience." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 37:239-257.
- + Film: "Mirrors of the Heart" (2-1916)

Mon 19 Sep – Race, ethnicity and gender

- Sheriff, Robin E. 2003. "Embracing Race: Deconstructing Mestiçagem in Rio de Janeiro." *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 8: 86-115.
- Gutmann, Matthew. *The Meanings of Macho*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.

Wed 21 Sep – Gender and sexuality in Latin America

- Gutmann, Chapters 3, 4 and 5
- de la Cadena, Marisol. 1995. "Women Are More Indian: Ethnicity and Gender in a Community in Cuzco." *In Ethnicity, Markets and Migration in the Andes: At the Crossroads of History and Anthropology*. B. Larson, O. Harris and E. Tandeter, eds. Pp. 329-348. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Mon 26 Sep – Fathers, mothers and the disappeared

- Gutmann, Chapters 6, 7 and 8
- + Film: "Las Madres: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo" (D-246)

Wed 28 Sep – Gender in the marketplace

- Gutmann, Chapters 9 and 10
- Seligmann, Linda. 1993. "Between Worlds of Exchange: Ethnicity Among Peruvian Market Women." *Cultural Anthropology* 8(2): 187-213.

Mon 3 Oct – Peasant and agrarian economies

- Wolf, Eric. 1957. "Closed Corporate Peasant Communities in Mesoamerica and Central Java." *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 13(1): 1-18.
  - Nietschmann, Bernard. 1974. "When the Turtle Collapses, the World Ends." *Natural History* 83(6): 34-42.
- + Film: "In Good Hands: Culture and Agriculture in the Lacandón Rainforest" (2-2725)

Wed 5 Oct – Urbanization and urban life: Rural-urban migration

- Lewis, Oscar. 1965. "The Folk-Urban Ideal Types." *In The Study of Urbanization*. P.M. Hauser and L.F. Scnore, eds. Pp. 491-503. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Paerregaard, Karsten. 1996 "Imagining a Place in the Andes: In the Borderland of Lived, Invented and Analyzed Culture." *In Siting Culture: The Shifting Anthropological Object*. K. Olwig and K. Hastrup, eds. Pp. 39-58. London: Routledge.

Mon 10 Oct – Urbanization and urban life: Crime, violence, and poverty

- Goldstein, Daniel M. n.d. “The Ghost State: Law and Ordering on the Urban Margins.” Chapter 3 in *Outlawed: Between Security and Rights in a Bolivian City*. Durham: Duke University Press (forthcoming).
  - Caldeira, Teresa P.R. 1999. “Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation.” *In Theorizing the City: The New Urban Anthropology Reader*. S.M. Low, ed.
- + Film: “Nowhere Else to Live” (10-1178)

Wed 12 Oct – Other ways of writing anthropology

*Special Guest*: Prof. Billie Jean Isbell, Dept. of Anthropology, Cornell University.

**Mon 17 Oct – Midterm Exam in Class Today**

Wed 19 Oct – Latin American food

- Sanabria, Harry. 2007. *The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Boston: Pearson. Chapter 9: “Food, Cuisine and Cultural Expression”

Mon 24 Oct – Latin American religion

- Allen, Catherine J. 1981. “To Be Quechua: The Symbolism of Coca Chewing in Highland Peru.” *American Ethnologist* 8(1):157-71.
  - Selka, Stephen. 2008. “The Sisterhood of Boa Morte in Brazil: Harmonious Mixture, Black Resistance and the Politics of Religious Practice.” *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 13(1):79-114.
- + Film: “Mundo Milagroso” (2-5708)

Wed 26 Oct – Globalization and neoliberalism

- Chasteen, John Charles. 2001. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. New York: Norton. “Neoliberalism,” pp. 307-21.
- Sawyer, Suzana. *Crude Chronicles*, pp. 1-56.

Mon 31 Oct – Neoliberalism’s impact in Latin America

- Sawyer, pp. 57-90.
- + Film: “Ropa Americana” (10-1142)

Wed 2 Nov – Big oil on trial

- Sawyer, chapter 3

Mon 7 Nov – Indigenous protest in a globalizing world

- NACLA. 2005. “Social Movements: Building from the Ground Up.” *NACLA Report on the Americas* 38(5 March-April): 13-40.
- Sawyer, chapters 5 and 6

Wed 9 Nov – Another indigenous challenge: The Zapatistas

- Stephen, Lynn, and George A. Collier. 1997. “Reconfiguring Ethnicity, Identity and Citizenship in the Wake of the Zapatista Rebellion.” *JLAA* 3(1): 2-13.
- + Films from Chiapas Media Project (private collection)

Mon 14 Nov – Popular social movements and globalization: The Water War in Cochabamba  
*Special Guest*: Marcela Olivera, fellow at the Center for Women’s Global Leadership.  
• Finnegan, William. 2002. “Leasing the Rain.” *The New Yorker*.

Wed 16 Nov – Hollywood takes notice

**Essay due today!**

+ Film: “The Big Sellout”

Mon 21 Nov – Health, illness and healing

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1993. “Nervoso: Medicine, Sickness and Human Needs.” *In* *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Pp. 167-215. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Wed 23 Nov – No class, Thanksgiving holiday

Mon 28 Nov – On the border: The North/South frontier

- Garcia, Maribel. 2006. “Life Along the NAFTA Highway: Transnational Living Strategies on the US/Mexico Border.” *Cultural Dynamics* 18(2): 139-61.
- + Film: “Letters from the Other Side” (10-2949)

Wed 30 Nov – Immigration and the new frontier

- Inda, Jonathan Xavier. 2000. “A Flexible World: Capitalism, Citizenship, and Post-National Zones.” *PoLAR* 23(1): 86-102.
- Mountz, Alison, and Richard Wright. 1996. “Daily Life in the Transnational Migrant Community of San Agustín, Oaxaca, and Poughkeepsie, New York.” *Diaspora* 5(3): 403-28.

Mon 5 Dec – Coca, cocaine and the war on drugs

- Farthing, Linda. 1997. “Social Impacts Associated with Anti-drug law 1008.” *In* *Coca, Cocaine and the Bolivian Reality*. M.B. Leóns and H. Sanabria, eds. Pp. 253-69. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Ledebur, Kathryn. 2002. “Coca and Conflict in the Chapare.” *WOLA Drug War Monitor* 1(1): 1-24.
- Bourgois, Philippe (1989) “Crack in Spanish Harlem: Culture and Economy in the Inner City.”

Wed 7 Dec – War on drugs, war on terror

- Selections TBA from the New York Times series on Mexican drug trafficking:  
[http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/mexico/drug\\_trafficking/index.html](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/mexico/drug_trafficking/index.html)
- + Film: “Coca Mama: The War on Drugs” (2-5739)

Mon 12 Dec – Border crossings: Debating the war on drugs

- More selections TBA from the New York Times series on Mexican drug trafficking