

ANTH 321 Ethnographic Survey of Latin America Fall 2013

Time & Location: 12:00-12:50 MWF
Science A 104
Office hours: 10 - 11am Wednesday
Or by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Chmilar
Department of Anthropology
Email: jchmilar@ucalgary.ca
Office: Earth Sciences 602K
Telephone: (403) 220-4699

T.A.:
Email:
Office:
Office hours:

Course Description

This course will focus on three themes that underscore contemporary life throughout Latin America: 1) lingering manifestations of colonial history, 2) rapid social and cultural change in recent decades, and 3) the exercise of power in everyday life. The ethnographic approach to social analysis privileges the experiences and perspectives of local people and their communities enabling rich qualitative consideration of complex questions about how macro social phenomena affect Latin Americans, their livelihoods, beliefs, practices, memories, values, and ambitions. Some important processes addressed in this course will be: European conquest, colonialism, the Cold War, urbanization, repressive military regimes, rural land reforms, social movements (i.e. human rights, indigenous, ecological), democratization, neoliberal re-structuring, and international development initiatives. Social phenomena through which these processes will be assessed include: religion and spirituality; popular music and folklore; food production and consumption; housing and livelihoods; health and illness; gender, class, and ethnic relations.

Course Objectives

Treating diverse communities (i.e. indigenous, peasant, corporate, urban, slave descendant), we will consider the means by which common histories throughout Latin America have given rise to wide diversity in cultural practices observed today. Special attention will be given to the objectives, as well as benefits and risks of anthropological research. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Critically identify broad historical trends that pattern social and political struggles in the region.
- 2) Recognize the influence that history, politics, and economics have on culture and social life.
- 3) Employ relevant anthropological theory to relate or "translate" seemingly distant or unusual practices, beliefs, and behaviour among Latin Americans to audiences unfamiliar with the region.

Readings

Students are expected to consult assigned readings in preparation for each class. All texts are available at the University of Calgary Bookstore. All students will be required to read the first text, *Americas*. For the three ethnographies, students will be assigned to read and present on one, though everyone will be tested on each. Feel free to buy all three (as all are wonderfully interesting books), or just the one that you will be assigned.

Other readings, including articles and portions of electronic books, are accessible free of charge for UofC students via library links provided on D2L, found under their assigned dates in the "Course Information" menu.

In the Bookstore:

1. WINN, Peter (2006) *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*
2. KELLY, Patty (2008) *Lydia's Open Door*
3. LOW, Setha (2000) *On the Plaza: The Politics of Public Space and Culture*
4. LAZAR, Sian (2008) *El Alto, Rebel City: Self and Citizenship in Andean Bolivia*

Online Links:

5. Links to articles not indicated in book of readings or assigned ethnographies can be found in the appropriate weekly folders within the D2L page. A valid U of C library account will be needed to sign in and follow the links.

Course Outline

The first five to six weeks of the course will be spent discussing Latin America and will be supplemented with readings from *Americas*. A mid-term will follow.

The second part of the class will be devoted to the three ethnographies, each receiving approximately two weeks attention. A test will follow each ethnography.

A more specific outline will be provided on the course D2L website.

Please consult the full outline for daily topics, reading requirements, assignment due dates, and exam dates.

Assignments & Exams

The course will progress according to the detailed outline provided at the beginning of term and posted on D2L. Students are expected to arrive to class with required texts already read. Classes will consist of a lecture/discussion led by the professor and teaching assistant on issues arising from daily topics, but not strictly mirroring material in required readings. Students are encouraged to pose relevant questions and participate with appropriate and respectful commentary.

Final grade will be based on both individual and group coursework including: 1) in-class mid-term exam, 2) a group presentation based on assigned chapters of an ethnography, 3) a mini-ethnography assignment, 5) in-class tests on each ethnography, and 6) a final test. It is required to complete all coursework in order to calculate the final grade. The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Mid-term exam	25%
Ethnography assignment, group presentation	15%
Mini-ethnography	20%
Test: Lydia's Open Door	10%
Test: On the Plaza	10%
Test: El Alto, Rebel City	10%
Final Test	10%

Accommodations:

In keeping with a philosophy of universal access to education, students may register with Student Accessibility Services located in MacEwan Hall room 452, or by phone (403) 220-8237, to arrange for academic accommodations. Those not registered are not eligible for such accommodations. See: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Grading scheme:

A+	94.9-100	A	89.9-94.8%	A-	84.9-89.8 %
B+	79.9-84.8 %	B	74.9-79.8 %	B-	70.9-74.8 %
C+	66.9-70.8 %	C	62.9-66.8 %	C-	58.9-62.8 %
D+	54.9 %- 58.8%	D	49.9-54.8 %	F	49.8 and below

Absences:

Absence from the in-class exams and tests or the group presentation, as well as the non-submission of assignments, must be justified with relevant documentation. If coursework is not submitted on time or an exam is missed, and in either of these cases an official and approved request for a changed deadline or exam time has not been made, the final course grade will be "fail due to absence." Official requests must be made in person or in writing to the professor no later than one class prior to the scheduled deadline / exam and accompanied by valid documentation.

Late Submissions:

All late submissions may be penalized 5% per day, except in the case of medical or family emergencies, for which documentation must be provided. Given ample access to university facilities, computer or printing problems are not acceptable. Please remember to back up files of assignments and print hard copies at various stages. All late submissions should be presented either in person to the professor or to Monika Davidson in the Department of Anthropology office, 6th floor, Earth Sciences. DO NOT SLIP ANY ASSIGNMENTS UNDER AN OFFICE DOOR (Professor's or Department's), as they will be dated whenever encountered and are at risk of loss. A yellow drop box on the table outside the Anthropology Department office door is for use after office hours, all assignments found within are date stamped at 4:30PM daily. It is recommended to retain an electronic copy of all submissions until the course is completed and final grade assigned.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also they will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam. For more information see also: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Plagiarism:

In evaluations, when a piece of information or a quote is used from another person (author, filmmaker, guest speaker), due credit is required. Students must mention the source in AAA format which is posted in the "Evaluations" folder on D2L and consists of brackets after the paraphrased sentence or direct quote. For example, (Author YEAR: PAGE):
"Fortified enclaves are privatized, enclosed, and monitored spaces for residence, consumption, leisure, and work" (Caldeira 1996: 303).

Full reference details must then be cited in the References Cited (bibliographic) section at the end of a document. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Consult the university calendar for details about penalties and consequences of plagiarism. Provide a complete listing of those sources cited in the text and no others. References must be given in a standard academic format; examples will be posted on D2L.

For help you can contact the Student Success Centre for writing support: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Note-taking and Instructor Availability:

It is not the instructor's policy to provide lecture notes and/or Powerpoint presentations on D2L. This may be done occasionally as a means of assistance, but should not be treated as an alternative to note-taking, as it will occur only at the instructor's timing and discretion. Students are expected to take their own notes and consult with peers over missed lectures. They are also encouraged to consult with the professor during office hours (meetings can also be arranged outside of listed office hours). Please regularly consult the course D2L page for news on classes, questions relating to readings, discussion points, and other useful information.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination NO

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

All cellular phones are expected to be turned off during class-time. Laptops are discouraged, but they may be used for note-taking by those sitting along the walls and at the back of the classroom. Should laptops become used for purposes not related to course material or in the designated areas of the classroom, this privilege may be removed for all class members. It is the instructor's preference that students take notes by hand, so that computers do not interfere with the social environment generated through class discussion.

Instructor Availability and Communications

It is the instructor's policy to reply to all emails in a prompt fashion. Students can expect a reply within 48 hours. Students are encouraged to consider office hours as useful resources in preparing for exams and independent assignments. In cases of scheduling difficulty with the listed office hours, alternative meetings to consult outside of class time can be arranged via email.

Class time

The course will progress according to the class outline provided at the beginning of term and posted on D2L. Students are expected to attend with required texts already read. Classes will consist of a lecture/discussion led by the professor and teaching assistant on issues arising from the daily topic, but not strictly mirroring material in required readings. On occasion, films and guest speakers will complement lectures. During lectures, students are encouraged to pose relevant questions and participate with appropriate commentary. Powerpoints are designed to facilitate instruction and on their own do not contain sufficient information for exams. It is highly recommended that upon missing a lecture, students obtain *good, detailed* notes from a classmate.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof, please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services, formerly the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

There are primary and alternative evacuation points for this particular classroom. The primary evacuation point in case of an emergency is in the Social Science Food Court, the alternative is in the ICT Food Court. Please gather in these locations in cases of evacuation, so that you may be accounted for.

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri).

Student Representation

The Student Union website can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact these if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881, look through their offerings on their website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>) or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block, MLB 117.