

ANTH 321 Ethnographic Survey of Latin America
Winter 2013

Time: M – W – F 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: KNB 126

Office hours: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m.
(or upon request)

Instructor: Rita Isabel Henderson

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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. This enables 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 of which may be addressed in one or more of the course evaluations. Three texts and a course reader are available at the University of Calgary Bookstore, but note that there is a choice between two ethnographies, meaning that only two texts and the reader are required. Other required readings are articles and portions of electronic books accessible free of charge for UofC students via library links provided on Blackboard, found under assigned dates in the “Course Information” menu.

In the Bookstore:

1. ANTH 321.01 *Book of Readings Winter 2013*. Professor Rita Henderson. *Fall 2010 and 2011 readers can be re-used. While thicker, all readings assigned for Winter 2013 are in those versions.
2. TAYLOR, Julie (1998) *Paper Tangos* (\$22 new; \$17 used). *For last two weeks of November.
3. **CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO ETHNOGRAPHIES:**

HECHT, Tobias (1998) *At Home in the Street: Street Children in Northeastern Brazil*.

or

KELLY, Patty (2008) *Lydia's Open Door: Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel*

Assignments & Evaluation

The course will progress according to the outline provided at the beginning of term and posted on Blackboard. Students are expected to arrive to class with required texts already read. Classes will consist of a lecture/discussion led by the professor 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.

Evaluation will be based on both individual and group coursework including: 1) in-class mid-term exam, 2) in-depth analysis assignment (prepared in groups of two, partners must be reading the same ethnography, either Hecht or Kelly), 3) study guide assignment (prepared alone or in pairs), and 4) final in-class test. It is required to complete all evaluations in order to calculate the final grade. The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Coursework:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Mid-term exam (closed book in-class Feb. 15 from 3:00-4:00p.m.): | 35% |
| In-depth analysis assignment (two week take-home from March 11-25, in groups of two): | 35% |
| Study Guide assignment (due April 8, can be done alone or in pairs) | 20% |
| Final test (closed book in-class April 15 from 3:00-4:00p.m., on March 20-April 12 material): | 10% |

Accommodations:

Students who need so may register with the Disability Resource Centre located in MacEwan Hall or by phone (403) 220-8237 to arrange for academic accommodations. Those not registered are not eligible for such accommodations.

Grading scheme:

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

Absences:

Absence from the in-class evaluations on Feb. 15 and April 15 must be justified with a relevant medical note (otherwise the student will fail both evaluation and course). 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 a valid medical note.

Late Submissions:

Late submissions may be penalized 5% per day, except in the case of medical or family emergencies, for which written 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, 8th floor, Social 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 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 Works 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 Blackboard.

Note-taking and Instructor Availability:

It is not the instructor’s policy to provide lecture notes and/or Powerpoint presentations on Blackboard. 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 be arranged outside of listed office hours).

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination NO

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

All cellphones 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. This means that during weekdays students can expect a reply within 24 hours, and on weekends 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 or telephone.

Class time

The course will progress according to the class outline provided at the beginning of term and posted on Blackboard. 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 evaluations.

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 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>

"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.

Outline: Regularly consult the course Blackboard page for news on classes and other useful information.

COURSE OUTLINE

| Week & Theme | Class Date | Required Readings & Class Details |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 1 First Encounters & Colonial Legacies | Mon: 7 Jan | No class |
| | Wed: 9 Jan | Course Introduction |
| | Fri: 11 Jan | Seed (article link posted on Blackboard) |
| 2 Contemporary Ethnography | Mon: 14 Jan | Pedely (Chapters 1-3, pages 1-36; book link on Blackboard) |
| | Wed: 16 Jan | Edelman (article link on Blackboard) |
| | Fri: 18 Jan | 1) Wolf (article link on Blackboard) 2) Nash (article link on Blackboard) |
| 3 Culture, Class, & Inequality | Mon: 21 Jan | 1) Menchu (in course reader) 2) Stoll (in course reader) 3) Aceituno (in course reader) |
| | Wed: 23 Jan | Foxen (article link on Blackboard) |
| | Fri: 25 Jan | Guest speaker Varinia Matute |
| 4 History & Historicities | Mon: 28 Jan | Taussig (pages 21-29; in course reader) |
| | Wed: 30 Jan | Taussig (pages 93-126); VIDEO "Contact" |
| | Fri: 1 Feb | Cormier (in course reader) |
| 5 Indigeneity & Indigenism | Mon: 4 Feb | Bacigalupo (article link on Blackboard) |
| | Wed: 6 Feb | Ramos article (article posted on Blackboard) |
| | Fri: 8 Feb | McAllister (article link on Blackboard) |
| 6 Modernity & Development | Mon: 11 Feb | Escobar (article link on Blackboard) |
| | Wed: 13 Feb | Farmer (article link on Blackboard) |
| | Fri: 15 Feb | MID-TERM EXAM (35%) |
| 7 | Mon: 18 Feb | Reading week – No Class |
| | Wed: 20 Feb | Reading week – No Class |
| | Fri: 22 Feb | Reading week – No Class |
| 8 Urbanism | Mon: 25 Feb | Introduction: Hecht OR Kelly |
| | Wed: 27 Feb | Chapter 1: Hecht OR Kelly |
| | Fri: 1 Mar | Chapter 2: Hecht OR Kelly |
| 9 Youth, Gender, Family | Mon: 4 Mar | Chapter 3: Hecht OR Kelly |
| | Wed: 6 Mar | Video: "La Sierra" (first half) |
| | Fri: 8 Mar | Chapters 4-5: Hecht OR Kelly |
| 10 Social Control | Mon: 11 Mar | Chapters 6-7: Hecht OR Kelly <i>IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT CIRCULATED</i> |
| | Wed: 13 Mar | Conclusion & Epilogue: Hecht OR Kelly |
| | Fri: 15 Mar | Video: "La Sierra" (second half) |
| 11 The State & Civil Society | Mon: 18 Mar | Kalinsky (article link posted on Blackboard) |
| | Wed: 20 Mar | Jelin (in course reader) |
| | Fri: 22 Mar | Dubois (article link posted on Blackboard) |
| 12 Narrative Ethnography | Mon: 25 Mar | IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT DUE (35%) Taylor |
| | Wed: 27 Mar | Taylor |
| | Fri: 29 Mar | Taylor |
| 13 Contemporary Ethnography Revisited | Mon: 1 Apr | TBA |
| | Wed: 3 Apr | Paley (article link posted on Blackboard) |
| | Fri: 5 Apr | Behar (article link posted on Blackboard) |
| 14 Course Wrap-up | Mon: 8 Apr | STUDY GUIDE ASSIGNMENT DUE (20%) |
| | Wed: 10 Apr | Ribeiro |
| | Fri: 12 Apr | Course wrap-up / review |
| 15 | Mon: 15 Apr | FINAL IN-CLASS TEST (10%) On Mar, 20-Apr. 12 material |