

ANTH 421: Contemporary Latin American Society
Winter 2012

Time & Location: 12:00 – 1:00p.m. M–W–F / MS 319
Office hours: Mondays 11:00a.m.-11:40a.m.
Wednesdays 1:10p.m.-2:00p.m. (or on request)
Office: SS 909

Instructor: Rita Isabel Henderson
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Course Description

This course focuses on developing professional skills in the research and analysis of contemporary Latin American societies. Drawing primarily on ethnographic knowledge, students will learn to identify and employ techniques for collecting social data about the region and its inhabitants. In addition to gaining deeper appreciation for the interplay between historical, economic, political, and cultural factors that shape social relations, students will practice applying theoretical approaches as they develop broader understanding of social patterns observed. Special attention will be paid to the impact that nation-state formation has on the organization of social life. The semester will progress through six sub-regions that frame material covered (Caribbean, Southern Cone, Amazon, Central America & Mexico, Andes, and Mercosur), dedicating 1-2 weeks to each. The course will conclude with reflection on the RAM-WAN (World Anthropologies) network, that emerged in large part from the efforts of Latin American peers.

Course Objectives

Through attention paid to prominent anthropologists working in the region, students will develop a greater awareness for the diverse applications of their ethnographic skills. They will also engage with questions about the ethics and feasibility of conducting research in contexts often characterized by poverty, communication barriers, and political constraints. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Apply key concepts learned in class to a range of social phenomena
- 2) Carry out a small research project that enhances knowledge about the region
- 3) Effectively present critical knowledge about the region in diverse formats (i.e. Wikispaces, poster presentations, policy papers, employment coverletters, and mini-ethnographies)

Readings

Students are expected to read assigned texts in preparation for each class. These are listed by date in abridged format in the syllabus and in extended format in the document titled "Detailed Outline" found in Course Information on Blackboard. Links to each electronic source are provided in that document, and in most cases require students to sign into their UofC library accounts for access, scrolling down to the indicated article and selecting it for PDF download.

In addition to electronic journal articles that are required reading for all students, everyone will select one of five available full-length ethnographies to focus their attention on throughout the semester. One MUST NOT have previously read their selected ethnography in another course. Students may choose to read more than one ethnography, but will be evaluated only in terms of one in their "Wikispace: Book" page and on the final exam. Three of the books are available for purchase at the bookstore. While the other two are not in the bookstore, students may order these online, or in the case of one they may view it online through an electronic subscription available via the UofC library. The choice of 5 full-length ethnographies are as follows (indicated in order of being addressed in the semester):

1. CARIBBEAN (*not in bookstore, not available electronically via U of C library*)
Glick Schiller, Nina and Georges Fouron (2001) "Georges Woke Up Laughing: long-distance nationalism and the search for home." Duke University Press, Durham NC
2. SOUTHERN CONE (*not in bookstore, but is available electronically via U of C library*)
Bacigalupo, Ana Mariella (2007) "Shamans of the Foye Tree: gender, power, and healing among Chilean Mapuche." University of Texas Press, Austin TX



3. AMAZON (*in bookstore, not available electronically via U of C library*)
Sawyer, Suzana (2004) "Crude Chronicles: Indigenous politics, multinational oil, and neoliberalism in Ecuador". Duke University Press, Durham NC

4. CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO (*in bookstore, also available electronically via U of C library*)
Kelly, Patty (2008) "Lydia's Open Door: Inside Mexico's Most Modern Brothel."
University of California Press, Berkeley

5. ANDES (*in bookstore, not available electronically via U of C library*)
Goldstein, Daniel (2004) "The Spectacular City: violence and performance in urban Bolivia." Duke University Press, Durham NC

Assignments & Evaluation

The course will progress according to the detailed 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. The final exam will treat the required readings and all material covered in class (including guest lectures). This means that students may be evaluated on concepts and examples that are clearly defined and addressed within classtime, even though these may refer to full-length ethnographies that one has NOT read. For this reason, the Wikispace pages dedicated to the full-length ethnographies will be valuable tools for peers who will not actually read all the books.

Evaluation will focus on assignments and a final exam, as follows:

Coursework:

Job Search & Application Assignment (due Monday, January 30 in class)	10%
Wikispace: Country Profile (completed Monday, February 27)	10%
Mini-Ethnography (due Monday, March 19 in class)	20%
Poster Presentation (tentatively Wednesday, March 28)	10%
Book Wikispace & Class Engagement (completed Monday, April 8)	15%
Policy Brief Summary (due Friday, April 12)	5%
Final Exam (scheduled by Registrar's Office during Exam Week)	30%

Wikispace Etiquette:

Note that a quarter of the course grade draws on work prepared within a Wikispace site, broken down into two assignments. In the first week of classes, email addresses will be confirmed and a communication sent out electronically inviting class members to register a Wikispace account. All students are expected to have their accounts active by Friday, January 13. Upon registering, one will be able to access the ANTH 421 Wikispace site, in which some pages are already started and in which many others will be added as the course progresses. This is a CLOSED SPACE, meaning that only those registered in the course will be able to view and modify material. It also means that any information entered into your profile can be viewed only by classmates.

Students are NOT permitted to delete the work of peers from Wikispace pages, but are encouraged to offer helpful feedback in a manner of peer review to those who may benefit from it. This may be done by way of emails within the Wikispaces page or by inserting comments (how to do this and other functions will be demonstrated in the first week of class). Students who have previously read certain ethnographies may offer insights to peers in the compilation of book pages, but must not modify contributions outside of one's own assigned book page. ONLY THOSE ASSIGNED TO A GIVEN BOOK'S TEAM should generate material for their book's page. More flexibility is permitted for the Wikispace Country Profile pages, as these are products prepared individually or in pairs, and can more fully benefit from the reasonable contributions of peers (i.e. by way of embedded youtube videos, FlickrR slideshows, and so forth). The final layout of all Country Profile pages is the discretion of the student(s) assigned to that country. The final layout of the book pages should be agreed upon through group discussion in person or online.

Accommodations:

In keeping with a philosophy of universal access to education, students 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.

Emergency Evacuation:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Social Sciences Food Court and the ICT Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

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 Poster Presentation event tentatively booked for Wednesday, March 28 should be anticipated with ample time, and will not excuse students from providing their poster for display. The non-submission of assignments on due dates 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. This is also the case for Wikispaces pages. 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 a 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. Students may take audio recording of the class and post them either on Blackboard or on the ANTH 421 Wikispaces site. They are also encouraged to consult with the professor during office hours (meetings can be arranged outside of listed office hours for those who cannot make these).

Research Ethics

This course involves assignments that require course-based ethics approval from the faculty research ethics committee. Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination YES

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

On occasion, films and guest speakers will complement lectures and class discussions. 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. It is highly recommended that upon missing a lecture, students obtain *good, detailed* notes from a colleague; Blackboard and Wikispaces are ideal resources in this respect.

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 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.

Student Representation

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.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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 or visit them on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.

COURSE OUTLINE		
Week & Theme		Class Date
1		Mon: 9 Jan
Ethnography & Modernity		Wed: 11 Jan
		Fri: 13 Jan
2		Mon: 16 Jan
Caribbean		Wed: 18 Jan
	<i>Georges</i>	Fri: 20 Jan
	<i>Woke Up</i>	Mon: 23 Jan
	<i>Laughing</i>	Wed: 25 Jan
3	By Glick-Schiller & Fouron	Fri: 27 Jan
Caribbean		Mon: 30 Jan
		Wed: 1 Feb
4		Fri: 3 Feb
Southern Conc	<i>Shamans of the Foye Tree</i>	Mon: 6 Feb
	By Bacigalupo	Wed: 8 Feb
5		Fri: 10 Feb
Southern Conc		

6 Amazon	Crude Chronicles	Mon: 13 Feb	Gledhill (on <i>Darkness in El Dorado</i>)
		Wed: 15 Feb	Lamphere (engaged anthropology)
		Fri: 17 Feb	Crude Chronicles
7 Reading Week		Mon: 20 Feb	Reading Week – No class
		Wed: 22 Feb	Reading Week – No class
		Fri: 24 Feb	Reading Week – No class
8 Amazon		Mon: 27 Feb	Crude Chronicles
		Wed: 29 Feb	Anne Christine Taylor
		Fri: 2 Mar	Crude Chronicles
9 Central America (& Mexico)	Lydia's Open Door	Mon: 5 Mar	Bourgeois (on Ethics)
		Wed: 7 Mar	1. Downe (sex work in Costa Rica)* 2. Lydia
		Fri: 9 Mar	Coordinating course project
10 Central America (& Mexico)		Mon: 12 Mar	1. McAllister (World Development Report) 2. Lydia
		Wed: 14 Mar	Lydia
		Fri: 16 Mar	Wolf (on Virgin of Guadalupe) TENTATIVE GUEST LECTURE: VARINIA MATUTE
11 Andes	The Spectacular City	Mon: 19 Mar	Spectacular City
		Wed: 21 Mar	de la Cadena (on Silent Racism)
		Fri: 23 Mar	Spectacular City
12 Andes		Mon: 26 Mar	Weismantel (on White cannibals)
		Wed: 28 Mar	Course Project Poster Presentation Event
		Fri: 30 Mar	Spectacular City
13 Mercosur		Mon: 2 Apr	Coronil (on Chavez's Venezuela)
		Wed: 4 Apr	Biehl (zones of abandonment), AND Scheper-Hughes (organ trafficking)
		Fri: 6 Apr	Good Friday – No class
14 World Anthropologies		Mon: 8 Apr	Ribeiro (World Anthropologies)
		Wed: 10 Apr	Parallels & contrasts between books
		Fri: 12 Apr	Course Wrap-up
Registrar Scheduled Exam		16-25 April	Date & time of final exam to be announced.

**Those readings marked with an asterix are only for students NOT reading the current book. All readings without the * are required for all students.*

Regularly consult the course Blackboard page for news on classes, questions relating to readings, discussion points, and other useful information.