

ANTH 421: Contemporary Latin American Society  
Winter 2015

Time: M-W-F 9.00 – 9.50 am

Location: SS109

Instructor: Dr. Alejandra Alonso

Department of Anthropology

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Office Hours: Fridays 10:00-11:00 am (or on request)

Office: SS646

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- **Course Description**

This course focuses on developing skills in the analysis of contemporary Latin American society. Drawing primarily on ethnographic research, students will learn to identify techniques for collecting social data about the region and its inhabitants. Students will gain an understanding of the interaction between historical, economic, political, and cultural factors that shape social relations. Students will identify theoretical approaches to different research problems as they develop broader understanding of social patterns observed. Themes central to the culture and society will be reviewed including globalization, questions of race and ethnicity, social movements, constructions of gender and sexuality, citizenship and political identities.

- **Course Objectives**

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

- 1) Identify key concepts, methodologies and different theoretical approaches to understand a range of social phenomena in the region.
- 2) Identify historical, economic, political and cultural factors affecting processes of democratization and globalization in Latin American society.
- 3) Identify, think critically about, and discuss the major geographical, historical, and social influences contributing to contemporary Latin America social transformations
- 4) Enhance skills to analyze, synthesize and use ethnographic data to create effective policy for influencing action and social change.

- **Evaluation**

In class participation 5%

Midterm test: 20%

5 policy briefs: 25% (5% each)

Ethnography presentation in groups: 20%

Ethnography Individual Critical Analysis: 30%



- Ethnography List

Students will choose one ethnography to read and make a critical analysis of it. Students will prepare a group presentation (3 persons each group) of 20 minutes to be presented at the end of the semester. One MUST NOT have previously read their selected ethnography in another course.

1. Indigenous peoples; medical anthropology; gender; religious anthropology;

Bacigalupo, Ana Mariella (2007) Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power, and Healing among Chilean Mapuche. University of Texas Press, Austin Texas. SOUTHERN CONE

2. Political anthropology; resource extraction

Coronil, Fernando (1997). The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press. AMAZON

3. Gender; medical anthropology, race

Edmonds, Alexander (2010). Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil. Durham NC: Duke University Press AMAZON

4. Food; labour; neoliberalism; globalization

Fitting, Elizabeth (2010). The Struggle for Maize: Campesinos, Workers, and Transgenic Corn in the Mexican Countryside. Durham NC: Duke University Press. NORTH AMERICA

5. Migration; development; transnationalism

Glick-Schiller, Nina and Georges Fouron (2001) Georges Woke Up Laughing: Long-Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home. Durham NC: Duke University Press. CARIBBEAN

6. Indigenous peoples; migration; political anthropology; urban anthropology

Goldstein, Daniel (2004). The Spectacular City: Violence and Performance in Urban Bolivia. Durham NC: Duke University Press. ANDES

7. Gender; kinship; urban anthropology

Gutmann, Matthew (2006). The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City. Berkeley: University of California Press. NORTH AMERICA

8. Medical anthropology; neoliberalism; urban anthropology

Han, Clara (2012). Life in Debt: Times of Care and Violence in Neoliberal Chile. Berkeley: University of California Press. SOUTHERN CONE

9. Indigenous peoples; environmental anthropology; anthropology of time & space

Kobo, Eduardo (2013). How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human. Berkeley: University of California Press.

10. Indigenous peoples; resource extraction; corporate social responsibility; nationalism; inter-ethnic relations; social movements; legal anthropology; neoliberalism

Sawyer, Suzana (2004). Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador. Durham NC: Duke University Press. ANDES

11. Indigenous peoples; globalization; political

Virtanen, Pirjo Kristiina (2012). *Indigenous Youth in Brazilian Amazonia: Changing Lived Worlds*. New York NY: Palgrave MacMillan. AMAZON

- Assignments

Written Reports. During the semester students will prepare 5 policy briefs on selected readings indicated in the outline.

Please check the website about How to write a Policy Brief by the International Development Research Center of the Government of Canada:

[http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Tools\\_and\\_Training/Documents/how-to-write-a-policy-brief.pdf](http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Resources/Tools_and_Training/Documents/how-to-write-a-policy-brief.pdf) from.

Please read also the following document explaining what is a policy brief and what should include:

<http://www.policy.hu/ipf/fel-pubs/samples/PolicyBrief-described.pdf>

Get ideas and instructions on how to build your own PB using the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) document on Preparing Policy Briefs:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2195e/i2195e03.pdf>

- Preliminary Outline

TOPICS	DATE		REQUIRED READING
Introduction	JAN	12	Course presentation and professor background
Latin America, Applied Anthropology, Ethics. Policy vs. reality, Activist vs. Engaged Anthropology	JAN	14	1. Bethell, Leslie. 2010. Brazil and Latin America. <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> 42:457-485.
	JAN	16	2. Garreton, Manuel Antonio et al. 2005. Social Sciences in Latin America: A Comparative Perspective Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay. <i>Social Science Information</i> . 44:557.
	JAN	19	3. Freidenberg, Judith. 2001. Applied Anthropology/Antropologia de la gestión. Debating the Uses of Anthropology in the United States and Latin America. <i>The Journal of Latin American Anthropology</i> 6(2): 4-19. AAA.
	JAN	21	4. Bourgois, Phillipe. 1990. Confronting Anthropological Ethics: Ethnographic Lessons from Central America. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> . 27(1): 43-54.
	JAN	23	5. Peter Wade. 2001. Racial Identity and Nationalism: a Theoretical View from latin America. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> Vol. 24 No. 5. September 2001. pp. 845-865
Race, Identity and Nationalism	JAN	26	6. De la Peña, Guillermo. 2005. Social and Cultural Policies Toward Indigenous Peoples: Perspectives from Latin America. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> . 34: 717-739.
	JAN	28	Policy Brief on: Weismantel, Mary. 1997. White Cannibals: Fantasies of Racial Violence in the Andes. <i>Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power</i> . 4(1):9-43.
	JAN	30	7. Redclift, Nanneke. 2003. Re Reading Gender: Comparative Questions, Situated Meanings, Latin American Paradoxes. <i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i> . University of London. 66(3): 486-500
Gender, Family, Household	FEB	2	8. Chant, Sylvia. 2002. Researching Gender, Families, and Households in Latin America: From the 20th to 21st Century. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> . 2(4): 545-575
	FEB	4	Policy Brief on: Glass-Coffin, Bonnie. 1999. Engendering Peruvian Shamanism through Time: Insights from Ethnohistory and Ethnography. <i>Ethnohistory</i> 46(2): 205-238.
	FEB	6	9. Chase, Jacquelyn 2002. The Spaces of Neoliberalism in Latin America in Land, Place, and Family in Latin America. Bloomfield CT. USA. Kumarian Press.
Globalization, Neoliberalism	FEB	9	10. Stocks, Anthony. 2005. Too Much for Too Few: Problems of Indigenous Land Rights in Latin America. <i>Annual Review in Anthropology</i> . 14:85-104.

	FEB	11	Policy Brief on: Hale, Charles R. 2006. Activist Research v. Cultural Critique: Indigenous Land Rights and the Contradictions of Politically Engaged Anthropology.
	FEB	13	Wrapping up concepts and topics
READING WEEK		16, 18, 20	READING WEEK
Inequality, Ethnicity, Globalization	FEB	23	Midterm test
	FEB	25	11. Thorp, Rosemary et al. 2006. Inequality, Ethnicity, Political Mobilization and Political Violence in Latin America: The Case of Bolivia, Guatemala and Peru. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> . 25(4): 453-480
	FEB	27	12. McNeish, John 2010. Globalization and the reinvention of Andean Tradition. <i>The Politics of Community and Ethnicity in Highland Bolivia</i> . <i>The Journal of</i>
	MAR	2	Movie Eyes Wide Open: Exploring Today's South America—Video on Demand
	MAR	4	Invited speaker
Democratization Strategies and Citizenship	MAR	6	13. Pearce, Jeanny. 2004. Collective Action or Public Participation? Complementary or Contradictory Democratisation Strategies in Latin America. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> 23(4):483-504.
	MAR	9	14. Tedesco, Laura. 2004. Democracy in Latin America: Issues of Governance in the Southern Cone. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> . 23(1): 30-42.
	MAR	11	15. Taylor, Lucy. 2004. Client-ship and Citizenship in Latin America. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> . 23(2): 213-227
	MAR	13	16. Yashar, Deborah. 1998. Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements and Democracy in Latin America. <i>Comparative Politics</i> . 31(1): 23-42.
	MAR	16	Policy Brief on: Holston, James. 2009. Dangerous Spaces of Citizenship: Gang Talk, Rights Talk and Rule of Law in Brazil. <i>Planning Theory</i> 8:12-31
Identity Politics	MAR	18	Movie Eyes Wide Open: Exploring Today's South America/ Video on Demand/
	MAR	20	Invited speaker
	MAR	23	17. Hale, Charles. 1997. Cultural Politics of Identity in Latin America. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> . 26:567-590.
	MAR	25	Policy Brief: Conklin, Beth. 1997. Body Paint, Feathers, and VCRs: Aesthetics and Authenticity in Amazonian Activist. <i>American Ethnologist</i> . 24(4): 711-737.
Security Challenges	MAR	27	18. Diamint, Rut. 2004. Security Challenges in Latin America. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> . 23(1) 43-62.
	MAR	30	Organization for presentations
ETHNOGRAPHY PRESENTATIONS	APR	1	
	APR	6	
	APR	8	
	APR	10	
	APR	13	

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

### 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.ucalgazy.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 Wikispace 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. 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.

#### **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.ucalgmy.ca/pubs/calendar/currenttk.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.ucalgmy.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.ucalgazy.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgazy.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgaryv.cn](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgaryv.cn), [arts3@su.ucalgazy.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgazy.ca), and [arts4@su.ucalgazy.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgazy.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.ucalgazy.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](mailto: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 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.