ANLS 238: Culture, Conflict, and Change in Latin America

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Office Hours: Mon. 2PM-4PM or by Appt.

Course Introduction

Over 400 million Latin Americans share a common language, but the region's racial, ethnic, geographical, and cultural diversity complicates a singular continental identity. This course surveys the anthropological scholarship on the diverse lifeways in Latin America and the Caribbean. Images and texts drawn from distinct locales considers how contrasting anthropological perspectives from the region’s peoples, histories, and contemporary challenges. Of particular concern are the ways legacies of colonialism shape both Latin America and anthropology. Additional topics of interest include indigenous and Afro-Latinx resistance and expression; immigration, transnationalism, and deportation; sex, gender, and sex work. This course begins by examining the shared colonial origins of modern anthropology and modern Latin America. In this first section, we will consider the politics of ethnographic representation, anthropological authority, and the project of decolonizing anthropology. In the section that follows, we examine the lasting legacy of the colonial racial systems emplaced during the colonial period. How has the Latin American state attempted to construct postcolonial institutions and identities in the aftermath of slavery, genocide, and white supremacy? How are ordinary citizens employing diverse forms of cultural expression to shape these projects? Finally, we will focus on how individuals occupy multiple social locations at once through and examination of gender, class, sexuality, and citizenship.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- appreciate the diversity of Latin American cultures.
- understand contemporary Latin American problems and strategies to solve them.
- recognize how distinct methods and perspectives in anthropology have shaped knowledge of the region.
- complete an original research project about Latin America.

Required Materials

Available in the Bates College Bookstore:


All other required materials will be available through the course’s Lyceum page.

Grading and Major Assignments
Critical questions (3 pts. each) Each class meeting you will be required to bring in at least one critical question related to that day’s required materials. Critical questions should demonstrate higher level thinking skills (per handout), demonstrate a profound engagement with course materials, and be thoughtful and original. These will be turned in to the professor at the end of each meeting.

Attendance and Participation (50 pts) (See course policies)

Map Quiz (10 pts) For this in-class quiz, you must correctly identify at least 20 different countries/territories in Central America, South America, and the Spanish-Speaking Caribbean.

Film/Event/Album/Current Event Review and Presentation (30 pts) Sign-up for due date. You will write a short (2-3 page double-spaced) review of a film, event, musical album or current event related to Latin America and the Caribbean. These reviews should draw connections between the chosen event or film and a minimum of two course readings. If focusing on a current event, students should draw on at least two distinct sources of information. Films can be either fictional or documentary but both albums and films must be produced in Latin America. These reviews should consider how and if the materials reinterpret historical trends in the region, how their context relates to other locations within Latin America and beyond, and the perspective and position of the author. The professor will regularly notify students of relevant campus events. The professor will select exceptional reviews to be posted on the course forum with the author’s permission. The Ladd library has a variety of films and albums available for check out. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in class.

Mid-Term Paper (100 pts) A 5-6 page paper synthesizing the materials and topics discussed in the first half of the course. Detailed assignment instructions will be posted to Lyceum in advance of the due date.

Annotated Bibliography (25 pts) A compiled list of five references you will use for your final paper. For each citation, include a 3-4 sentence description of its main argument, methodology, how it relates to your paper’s thesis, and its relation to your other references.

Class Lecture (50 pts) Groups of students will work together to lead one class discussion during the term. Students will be provided a rubric for grading in advance of the assignment.

Paper Draft (50 pts) You will bring a draft of your final research paper (5 page minimum) to be peer-reviewed in class. In this draft, you should demonstrate a clear thesis, draw connections between multiple course themes, and have begun to integrate outside materials.

Paper Presentations (50 pts) During the last two classes, students will present the findings of their final research papers to the class.

Final Paper (200 pts) Throughout the term, you will research and write an 8-10 page paper about a topic in Latin America and the Caribbean of your choosing. All students are required to schedule an appointment with the professor to discuss their topic by Friday, October 27th. A grading rubric will be posted on Lyceum in advance of the due date.

Late Policy With the exception of reading responses, the map quiz and the paper draft, all assignments can be submitted after the due date with a penalty of one letter grade for each day it is late. Please contact the professor if you need any special accommodations of extensions.
Course Policies

In this class we will engage difficult, complex, and at times, uncomfortable topics through discussion and interaction. In order to foster an environment where everyone can learn we must ensure that everyone participates. Students are discouraged from using electronic devices unless absolutely necessary. If a student is utilizing chat or checking social media during class they will be banned from using such devices.

Moreover, students are expected to contribute to the construction of an inclusive classroom. This means both in terms of respecting your peers’ opinions, gender, race, religion, and ethnic presentations, and keeping in mind that we are reading and talking about real people’s experiences and lives in this course. However, this course is designed to engage questions about power, privilege, and inequality that require critical commentary. You will be expected to question the perspective of the authors, the professor, yourself, and your peers. However, your critiques should be geared toward promoting learning and dialogue.

Resources

While I am always available for additional help and questions, there are several resources on campus to help you succeed in this course and others. If you have any concerns about the accessibility of the course content and assessments you can contact me and the Office of Accessible Education http://www.bates.edu/accessible-education/ to arrange accommodations.

The Academic Resource Commons https://www.bates.edu/academic-resource-commons/ provides drop-in hours for doing homework and scheduled tutoring sessions.

The Writing and Speaking Center provides writing specialists you can contact to schedule an appointment or ask a question about writing.

The Office of Intercultural Education https://www.bates.edu/oie/#connect-with-us offers resources for LGBTQ students, first-generation college students, and students of color.

If you have any mental health needs or just having a bad day, you can make an appointment with Counseling and Psychological Services here: https://www.bates.edu/counseling-psychological-services/.

Also, me! Stop by my office hours for any questions or concerns you may have about class, your college experience, or life in general.

Course Calendar

Subject to change. Check Lyceum for updates.

Wed. Sept. 5 – Introduction

Fri. Sept. 7 – Why Latin America?


**Mon. Sept. 10 – Born in Blood and Fire**


Timeline of Key Events, 1325-2010  
https://library.brown.edu/create/modernlatinamerica/wpcontent/uploads/sites/42/2012/08/Timelineof-Key-Events.pdf


**Wed. Sept. 12 - The Idea of Latin America**

Pages x-xx and 1-22.


**Fri. Sept. 14 – Noble Savages**


**Mon. Sept. 17 – Confronting Anthropological Ethics**


**Wed. Sept. 19 – Panethnic Identities?**

Part II: Colonial Residues: Identities and Inequalities

Fri. Sept. 21 – Race-ing Toward Independence

MAP QUIZ


Mon. Sept. 24 – Race, Borderlands, and Dispossession


Wed. Sept. 26 – Indigeneity, Rights, and Racial/Cultural Difference


Fri. Sept. 28 – Negro Soy Yo


Chapter 1 “Raced Neoliberalism: Groundings for Hip Hop” 29-56.


Chapter 2 “Hip Hop Cubano: An Emergent Site of Black Life” 57-90.

Fri. Oct. 5 - Negro Soy Yo Cont.

Chapter 3 “New Revolutionary Horizons” 91-134.

Mon. Oct. 8 – Columbus Day/Día de La Raza

population, and racial frontiers.” Social Anthropology 9(3): 165-192.


**Wed. Oct. 10 - Negro Soy Yo Cont.**

Chapter 4 “Critical Self-Fashionings and Their Gendering” 135-170.


**Fri. Oct. 12 – Negro Soy Yo Cont.**

Chapter 5 “Radical Challenges and the State” 171-198.

**Mon. Oct. 15 – Diasporic Blackness and International Connections**


**FALL BREAK**

**Part III: Migration, Gender and Rights**

**Mon. Oct. 22 – Meeting with Research Librarian in Ladd Library**

**MID-TERM PAPER DUE**

**Wed. Oct. 24 – Mobilizing Intersectionality**


**Fri. Oct. 26 – The Other Side of Sex Positivity**


**Mon. Oct. 29 – What’s wrong with sex work?**


Watch: Dólares de Arena. Dir. Amelia Gúzman and Israel Córdenas.
Wed. Oct. 31 – Necropolitics


Fri. Nov. 2 – Migrating Sexualities

Annotated Bibliography Due


Mon. Nov. 5 – Gender, Race, and the Deportation Regime


Wed. Nov. 7 – Archaeologies of Crossing


Fri. Nov. 9 – Deported


Mon. Nov. 12 – Sanitary Citizenship


Wed. Nov. 14 – South-South Migration


Watch: Cristo Rey Trailer. https://youtu.be/xizoIp1ONhU.

Fri. Nov. 16 – NO CLASS
THANKSGIVING BREAK

Mon. Nov. 26 – Paper Drafts Due – In-Class Peer Review

Wed. Nov. 28 – Transnationalism


Fri. Nov. 30 - Class Choice

Mon. Dec. 3 – Class Choice

Wed. Dec. 5 – Student Presentations

Fri. Dec. 7 – Student Presentations