

ANTH 421: Contemporary Latin American Society
 Winter 2014

Time: M–W–F 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.
Location: SS 109
Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 (or on request)
Office: ES 602K

Instructor: Dr. Rita Isabel Henderson
 Department of Anthropology
Email: rihender@ucalgary.ca

Course Description

This course focuses on developing professional skills in the research and analysis of contemporary society in Latin America. 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 relevant theoretical approaches to convey knowledge to distinct audiences. Special attention will be paid to the impact that nation-state formation has on the organization of social life.

Objectives

Through attention paid to prominent anthropologists working in the region, students will develop a greater awareness of the diverse applications of an ethnographic skill set. 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. employment cover, letter, Wikispaces page, mini-ethnography, poster presentation, and policy brief)

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 the Course Information folder on Blackboard. Links to each electronic source are provided in that document, and in most cases require students to sign into U of C library accounts for access.

In addition to electronic journal articles that are required reading for all students, students will each select 2 full-length ethnographies, one of which will frame their group Monograph Presentation assignment, and both of which will frame the independent policy brief assignment. Students may choose to read more than two ethnographies. Some of the ethnographies in the list below are available in the bookstore, others online via the U of C library, and others can be ordered online.

The TWO ethnographies must be selected from the following list.

	Themes	
1	Indigenous peoples; medical anthropology; gender; religious anthropology	Bacigalupo, Ana Mariella (2007) <i>Shamans of the Foye Tree: Gender, Power, and Healing among Chilean Mapuche</i>. University of Texas Press, Austin TX
2	Medical anthropology; AIDS	Biehl, João with Torben Eskerod (2009). <i>Will to Live: AIDS Therapies and the Politics of Survival</i>. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.
3	Political anthropology; resource extraction	Coronil, Fernando (1997). <i>The Magical State: Nature, Money, and Modernity in Venezuela</i>. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press.
4	Gender; medical anthropology race	Edmonds, Alexander (2010). <i>Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil</i>. Durham NC: Duke University Press
5	Resource extraction; globalization	Ferry, Elizabeth (2005). <i>Not Ours Alone: Patrimony, Value, and Collectivity in Contemporary Mexico</i>. New York: Columbia University Press.
6	Food; labour; neoliberalism; globalization	Fitting, Elizabeth (2010). <i>The Struggle for Maize: Campesinos, Workers, and Transgenic Corn in the Mexican Countryside</i>. Durham NC: Duke University Press.
7	Migration; development; transnationalism	Glick-Schiller, Nina and Georges Fouron (2001) <i>Georges Woke Up Laughing: Long-Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home</i>. Durham NC: Duke University Press.
8	Indigenous peoples; migration; political anthropology; urban anthropology	Goldstein, Daniel (2004). <i>The Spectacular City: Violence and Performance in Urban Bolivia</i>. Durham NC: Duke University Press.
9	Gender; race; poverty; urban anthropology	Goldstein, Donna (2003). <i>Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press.
10	Gender; kinship; urban anthropology	Gutmann, Matthew (2006). <i>The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press.

11	Medical anthropology; neoliberalism; urban anthropology	Han, Clara (2012). <i>Life in Debt: Times of Care and Violence in Neoliberal Chile</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press.
12	Political & legal anthropologies; democracy; expert knowledge; development; neoliberalism	Hetherington, Kregg (2011). <i>Guerrilla Auditors: The Politics of Transparency in Neoliberal Paraguay</i> . Durham NC: Duke University Press.
13	Indigenous peoples; environmental anthropology; anthropology of time & space	Kohn, Eduardo (2013). <i>How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press.
14	Indigenous peoples; resource extraction; corporate social responsibility; nationalism; inter-ethnic relations; social movements; legal anthropology; neoliberalism	Sawyer, Suzana (2004). <i>Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador</i> . Durham NC: Duke University Press.
15	Indigenous peoples; kinship; globalization; political anthropology	Virtanen, Pirjo Kristiina (2012). <i>Indigenous Youth in Brazilian Amazonia: Changing Lived Worlds</i> . New York NY: Palgrave MacMillan.
16	Indigenous peoples; globalization; political anthropology	Nash, June (2001). <i>Mayan Visions: The Question for Autonomy in the Age of Globalization</i> . New York: Routledge

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 class time, even though these may refer to full-length ethnographies that one has NOT read. For this reason, the Wikispace pages dedicated to full-length ethnographies will be valuable tools for peers who will not actually read all the books.

Evaluation:

Job Search & Application Assignment (due January 27 for 8%; two peer-reviews due Feb 3 for 2%)	10%
Monograph Presentations in Groups (15 minutes max, 1-2 per week from Feb. 3-April 4)	20%
Mid-Term Exam (Monday, March 10)	25%
Final Test (in-class Friday, April 11)	10%
Policy Brief Assignment (due Monday, April 14)	25%
Class Participation (timely completion of surveys, engaging in discussions, respect for peers)	10%

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 Friday, March 28 should be anticipated with advanced notice, and will not excuse students from providing their poster for display. The non-submission of assignments on a due date 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 if 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 “Incomplete.” 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 be 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, 6th floor, Earth Sciences building. **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, and all assignments found within are date stamped at 4:30p.m. daily. Students are advised 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 & Academic Misconduct:

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 a written text and no others. References must be given in a standard academic format; examples will be posted on Blackboard. For further information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof, see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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, 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).

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>

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination NO

Electronic Devices in the Classroom


All cell 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. 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 peer.

COURSE OUTLINE				
Week & Theme	Class Date	Required Readings & Scheduling	Presentations	
1 Why ethnography?	Wed: 8 Jan	Introduction		
	Fri: 10 Jan	Caplan "A World without Boundaries"		
2	Mon: 13 Jan	ICSU Policy Brief on Biodiversity <i>*Must complete "Monograph Selection" Survey by 11 a.m. on Blackboard under "Course Documents"</i>		
	Wed: 15 Jan	Browne "Creole Economics"		
	Fri: 17 Jan	Davila & Elvira "Humanistic Leadership" (read critically!)		
3 Activist vs. Engaged Anthropology	Mon: 20 Jan	Stocks "Too much for too few"		
	Wed: 22 Jan	Bourgois "Confronting Anthropological Ethics"		
	Fri: 24 Jan	*Guest lecture from Cristian Silva		
4 Theory meets Practice	Mon: 27 Jan	Hale "Activist vs. Engaged" <i>*Job Search Assignment Part I, upload by 4p.m. (8%)</i>		
	Wed: 29 Jan	Starn "Missing the Revolution"		
	Fri: 31 Jan	TBA		
5 Gendered Bodies	Mon: 3 Feb	Bacigalupo "The Creation of a Mapuche Sorcerer" OR Glass-Coffin "Engendering Peruvian Shamanism" <i>*Job Search Assignment Part II, upload by 4p.m. (2%)</i>		Shamans of the Foye Tree
	Wed: 5 Feb	Gutmann "Dystopian Travels in Gringolandia"		Meanings of Macho
	Fri: 7 Feb	Edmonds "The poor have the right to be beautiful"		Pretty Modern
6 Spectres of Race	Mon: 10 Feb	Weiszwil "White Cannibals"		
	Wed: 12 Feb	No assigned reading, making connections in class.		
	Fri: 14 Feb	Trouillot "North Atlantic Universals"		
7	Mon: 20 Feb	Reading Week – No class		
	Mon: 17 Feb	Reading Week – No class		
	Wed: 19 Feb	Reading Week – No class		
8 Globalization	Mon: 24 Feb	Downe "Laughing even when it hurts"	Laughter out of place	
	Wed: 26 Feb	Goldstein "Flexible Justice"	The Spectacular City	
	Fri: 28 Feb	Glick-Schiller & Fouron "Everywhere we go..."	Georges Woke up	
	Mon: 3 Mar	McAllister "Seeing like an Indigenous Community"	Struggle for Maize	
	Wed: 5 Mar	Ferry "Inalienable Commodities"		
10 Identity Politics	Fri: 7 Mar	No reading, pre-exam activities.		
	Mon: 10 Mar	<i>Mid-Term Exam in class time (25%)</i>		
	Wed: 12 Mar	Li "Engineering Responsibility" (if we can get access)	Crude Chronicles	
11	Fri: 14 Mar	Conklin "Body Paint, Feathers, & VCRs"	Youth in Brazilia	
	Mon: 17 Mar	TBA		
	Wed: 19 Mar	Kohn "How Dogs Dream"	How Forests Think	
12 Political & Legal Anthropology	Fri: 21 Mar	TBA		
	Mon: 24 Mar	TBA		
	Wed: 26 Mar	Holston "Dangerous Spaces of Citizenship,"	The Magical State	
13 Medical Anthropology	Fri: 28 Mar	TBA (likely Hetherington)		
	Mon: 31 Mar	Biehl's "The Activist State"	Will to Live	
	Wed: 2 Apr	TBA		
14 Wrap-Up	Fri: 4 Apr	Han "The Work of Indebtedness"	Life in Debt	
	Mon: 7 Apr	TBA		
	Wed: 9 Apr	Course wrap-up		
15	Fri: 11 Apr	<i>Final test (10%)</i>		
	Mon: 14 Apr	No class. <i>*Policy Brief (25%) due during class time in normal class location. Hard copy submissions only.</i>		