



## ANTHROPOLOGY OF LATIN AMERICA

ANT 4930 – ANG 6930 – LAS 4935 – LAS 6938

Spring 2016

Tues 6-7 periods (12:50-2:45) in MCCA 2186

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> period (1:55-2:45) in TUR 2305

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Office Hrs: Tues & Thurs 3-4pm

Grinter Hall 368; (352) 273-4721

This new course explores contemporary issues in Latin America from the anthropological perspective. Against the background of colonial legacies of exploitation and violence and ruptured transitions to democratic regimes and market-oriented economies we will analyze ethnicity, indigeneity, race, gender and social movements. From sprawling urban centers to remote rural communities, our focus will be on the everyday lives of people who are affected by and respond to shifting political, legal, and economic conjunctures across the continent and across the globe. We will examine the meaning and practices of citizenship, follow old and emergent migratory trajectories, and discuss legitimate and illicit livelihood strategies. The course is based on the idea that societies and cultures of the Western hemisphere are profoundly and inseparably interconnected as part of a single region, the Americas, which

in its turn must be understood in the broadest global context. An ethnographic, bottom-up approach to issues of statecraft, bordering, security, human rights, crime, and development will trace crucial connections between countries in Latin America and the United States.

The main objective of the course is to make students familiar with contemporary issues faced by Latin American societies, enabling them to interpret and understand these issues within the broader contexts of the Western Hemisphere's politics, economics, histories and cultures.

Upon completion of the course students will have developed the skills to be able to:

- Converse, with historical and ethnographic sensitivity, about a range of contemporary social and cultural issues in the region.
- Identify the effects of shared history and other commonalities in the region, while also recognizing and appreciating the tremendous diversity between societies and cultures.
- Come to understand Latin America not as a bounded region but as part of an integrated globe that includes the United States.
- Consider the contribution that anthropology has made to the understanding of political, economic and social forces at play in the Americas.
- Place course themes within in a wider context of anthropological theory.
- Use resources at the Latin American Collection to conduct independent and original research on a select topic.
- Make interactive digital story maps, using text and multimedia content.

#### **Required books:**

(Listed in the order in which they are assigned)

Bessire, Lucas. 2014. *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life*. University of Chicago Press.

Escobar, Arturo. 2008. *Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes*. Duke University Press.

Edmonds, Alexander. 2010. *Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil*. Duke University Press.

De León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. University of California Press.

The books are available for 2-hour loan at Reserve Desk at the library.

All remaining class readings can be downloaded from Canvas site.

#### **Assignments and Grading:**

Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: active participation in class discussions (28 points); mid-term exam (20 points); research proposal (12 points); and a digital story map (30 points). Students will earn up to 10 points for attending qualifying extracurricular events with Latin American content.

Attendance: Absence for reasons of illness, religious holiday or official university business is excused. Please inform your instructor as early as possible and provide appropriate documentation. You are

responsible to contact a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without any penalty. After the third unexcused absence your final grade will be reduced by 5 points. Students with six or more unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

#### Participation in Discussions (28 points)

This is a discussion-based class. Careful preparation for each of the seminars and informed contribution is expected. Always bring an electronic or print copy of that day's readings to class, and come to the seminar with questions and ideas. You should take notes while reading the assigned texts (listing the main points, new concepts, relevant quotes; writing down your questions) and bring these to the seminar to use for reference during the discussion. To receive 1 point for the seminar your comments must demonstrate that you have done the assigned readings. Participation in discussions without showing your familiarity with the readings will not be awarded points.

#### Midterm Exam (20 points)

The midterm will be a take-home exam. Questions will be explicitly tied to course readings, lectures and films from the first part of the course (through February 18). The exam will be due on Canvas by the end of the day on February 23.

#### Research Project (42 points)

During the first few weeks of the course you will choose a research question, which will guide your individual work. When choosing your research question, you should visit the Latin American Collection and browse through the UF library resources available online. While thinking about possible topics, you are also highly encouraged to meet with the instructor to share your ideas. All students will write a 1-page research proposal (5 points) with a bibliography (7 points) of their chosen topic and create a digital story map (30 points), which will be presented during the last day of class. Specific instructions for preparing the proposal and making story maps will be given in class.

#### Events with Latin American Content (10 points)

You will get 2 points each time you attend a public talk, conference panel, seminar or another event focused on Latin America (up to a maximum of 10 points). Consult with the instructor ahead of time about your plans to attend an event to ensure it qualifies for credit. To receive credit, you should provide a copy of your notes from the event (half a page to a page long, handwritten or typed) no later than the following week. Information about qualifying events on campus will be announced in class, but you are also encouraged to look for them independently.

#### **Campus Resources:**

The Latin American Collection: Located on the third floor of the Smathers Library (East), the Latin American and Caribbean Collection (LACC) holds approximately 500,000 volumes, over 50,000 microforms, thousands of current and historical serial titles, and a large number of digital resources. You should consult this collection when choosing your research topic and use it while working on your individual project. More information, including hours, is available here:

<http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/lac/Index.aspx>.

Writing Studio: If you want to improve your writing, the Writing Studio is a free service for current UF graduate and undergraduate students providing you with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a

consultant to help you become a more effective writer. Schedule an appointment online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/schedule-an-appointment/>.

**Course Rules:**

Late Work and Extensions: If you know you will not be able to turn in the assignment on time, please notify me as early as possible. Extensions must be arranged in advance. Assignments will be marked down 1 point for each day they are late.

Grading Scale:

A = 94 and above; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 79-82; C+ = 76-78; C = 72-75; C- = 69-71; D+ = 66-68; D = 62-65; D- = 59-61; E = 58 and below.

Passing Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67

For further information, please consult UF grading policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grade Appeals: Grades will not be discussed via e-mail. If you have a question or a complaint about your grade, please contact me within 48 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Accommodations for Disabilities: Students who need classroom accommodation or other reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and satisfy course criteria are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible. You will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>.

Health and Counseling:

Health and counseling services are available for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance. You can contact UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>; 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1:

January 5

#### Course and Class Introduction

*In-class documentary, "Cashing in on Culture: Indigenous Communities and Tourism" (Regina Harrison, 2002)*

January 7

#### Anthropology and Anthropologists in Latin America

Readings TBA

### Week 2:

January 12

#### Ethnographic Study #1

Bessire, Lucas. 2014. *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life*. (Introduction, Chapters 1-2)

*In-class documentary, "Asking Ayahai: An Ayoreo Story" (Lucas Bessire, 2004)*

January 14

#### Ethnographic Study #1

Bessire, Lucas. 2014. *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life*. (Chapters 3-4)

*\*Special Guest: Dr. Lucas Bessire, University of Oklahoma (Skype-in)*

### Week 3:

January 19

#### Ethnographic Study #1

Bessire, Lucas. 2014. *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life*. (Chapters 5-7)

January 21

#### Ethnographic Study #1

Bessire, Lucas. 2014. *Behold the Black Caiman: A Chronicle of Ayoreo Life*. (Chapter 8, Conclusion)

#### **Week 4:**

January 26

##### **Resource Extraction and Politics of Conservation**

Sawyer, Suzana. 2001. "Fictions of Sovereignty: Of Prosthetic Petro-Capitalism, Neoliberal States, and Phantom-Like Citizens in Ecuador." *The Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 6:156–197.

Cepek, Michael L. 2012. "The Loss of Oil: Constituting Disaster in Amazonian Ecuador." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 17:393–412.

*In-class documentary, "Crude" (Joe Berlinger, 2009)*

January 28

##### **Property Regimes**

Campbell, Jeremy M. 2014. "Speculative Accumulation: Property-Making in the Brazilian Amazon." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 19: 237–259.

#### **Week 5:**

February 2

##### **Ethnographic Study #2**

Escobar, Arturo. 2008. *Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes*. (Introduction, Chapter 1)

*In-class documentary, "Uprooted" (Juan Mejía Botero, 2007).*

February 4

##### **Ethnographic Study #2**

Escobar, Arturo. 2008. *Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes*. (Chapters 2-3)

#### **Week 6:**

February 9

##### **Ethnographic Study #2**

Escobar, Arturo. 2008. *Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes*. (Chapters 4-5)

*In-class documentary, "Trees Tropiques" (Alex Fattal, 2010).*

February 11

##### **Ethnographic Study #2**

Escobar, Arturo. 2008. *Territories of Difference: Place, Movements, Life, Redes*. (Chapter 6, Conclusion)

## **Week 7:**

February 16

### **Urban Lives in Segregated Cities**

Caldeira, Teresa. 1996. "Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation." *Public Culture* 8:303-328.

Guano, Emanuela. 2004. "The Denial of Citizenship: 'Barbaric' Buenos Aires and the Middle Class Imaginary." *City & Society* 16(1): 69-97.

February 18

### **Representing the Other**

Zamorano, Gabriela. 2011. "Traitorous Physiognomy: Photography and the Racialization of Bolivian Indians by the Créqui-Montfort Expedition (1903)." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 16:425-455.

#MIDTERM EXAM HANDED OUT#

## **Week 8:**

February 23

### **Ethnographic Study #3**

Edmonds, Alexander. 2010. *Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil*. (Introduction)

*In-class documentary: Manda Bala (Jason Kohn, 2007)*

#MIDTERM EXAM DUE#

February 25

### **Ethnographic Study #3**

Edmonds, Alexander. 2010. *Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil*. (Part 1)

## **Week 9:**

SPRING BREAK

## **Week 10:**

March 8

### **Ethnographic Study #3**

Edmonds, Alexander. 2010. *Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil*. (Part 2)

March 10

### **Ethnographic Study #3**

Edmonds, Alexander. 2010. *Pretty Modern: Beauty, Sex, and Plastic Surgery in Brazil*. (Part 3, Conclusion)

### **Week 11:**

March 15

### **Informal Economies**

Galemba, Rebecca. 2012. "Taking Contraband Seriously: Practicing "Legitimate Work" at the Mexico-Guatemala Border." *Anthropology of Work Review* 33:3–14.

Gandolfo, Daniela. 2013. "Formless: A Day at Lima's Office of Formalization." *Cultural Anthropology* 28:278–298.

March 17

### **(In)security, (In)justice and the Law**

Goldstein, Daniel M. 2003. "'In Our Own Hands': Lynching, Justice, and the Law in Bolivia." *American Ethnologist* 30:22–43.

### **Week 12:**

March 22

### **Gang Violence**

Burrell, Jennifer. 2010. "In and Out of Rights: Security, Migration, and Human Rights Talk in Postwar Guatemala." *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology* 15:90–115.

Rodgers, Dennis. 2007. "Joining the Gang and Becoming a Broder: The Violence of Ethnography in Contemporary Nicaragua." *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 26(4):444–461.

March 24-25

### **Landscapes of Crimes**

65<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Center for Latin American Studies  
"CRIMESCAPES: Space, Law and the Making of Illegality in the Americas"

### **Week 13:**

March 29

### **Ethnographic Study #4**



De León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. (Introduction, Chapters 1&2)

*In-class documentary, "The Undocumented" (PBS, 2013)*

March 31

#### **Ethnographic Study #4**

De León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. (Chapters 3-6)

#### **Week 14:**

April 5

#### **Ethnographic Study #4**

De León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. (Chapters 7-10)

*In-class documentary, "Sin Nombre" (Cary Fukunaga, 2009)*

April 7

#### **Ethnographic Study #4**

De León, Jason. 2015. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. (Chapters 11-12)

#### **Week 15:**

April 12

#### **Production of Knowledge**

Muehlmann, Shaylih. 2012. "Rhizomes and Other Uncountables: The Malaise of Enumeration in Mexico's Colorado River Delta." *American Ethnologist* 39:339–353.

Merry, Sally E. and Coutin, Susan B. 2014. "Technologies of Truth in the Anthropology of Conflict: AES/APLA Presidential Address, 2013." *American Ethnologist* 41:1–16.

April 14

#### **Student Presentations**

#### **Week 16:**

April 19

#### **Student Presentations**