

Latin American & Caribbean Cultures
ANTH 251 “W”

Instructor: Dr. Angela N. Castañeda

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Semester: Spring 2017

Location: Asbury Hall 220

Time: 2:20-3:50 Tuesday and Thursday

Office: Asbury Hall 219

Office Hours: 10am-noon Tuesday and Thursday, also by appointment

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Somos unos en América, y estamos, sin embargo, tan lejanos todos.
We are all one in America, and we are, nonetheless, all of us so distant.
Benjamín Carrión, Obras

Course Summary

This course introduces students to the diverse cultures and societies of Latin America and the Caribbean via a multi-disciplinary approach. Through historical, ethnographic, and literary study, we will explore relations of power, ideology, and resistance from the colonial conquest to the present, including economic dependency, development, political institutions, the military, social movements, religious expressions and ethnic and class relations. Readings, films, lectures, and class discussions/presentations are all integral parts of the course. As a W course, we will also learn more about the craft of writing.

Course Objectives

The objectives for this course are that students will:

1. Actively engage course material by working collaboratively with other students throughout the semester in the creation of a community of learning within the classroom.
2. Increase their writing skills. Create well crafted and thought provoking written assignments that incorporate class information with their own voice and understanding of the material.
3. Expand their knowledge and understanding of key anthropological terms as well as various ethnographic methods of documentation that include life histories and participant observation.
4. Gain a broader appreciation of the cultural diversity found in the communities of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Come out of the course with a strong sense of the parallel and divergent paths that shape this region—enabling students to pass to more advanced courses on the region.

Required Readings

Muehlmann, Shaylih. 2013. *When I Wear My Alligator Boots: Narco-Culture in the U.S. Mexico Borderlands*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Jaffee, Daniel. 2014. *Brewing Justice: Fair Trade Coffee, Sustainability, and Survival*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Brennan, Denise. 2004. *What's Love Got to Do with It?: Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic*. Chapel Hill: Duke University Press.

Hagedorn, Katherine J. 2001. *Divine Utterances: The Performance of Afro-Cuban Santeria*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Books.

Larkins, Erika Mary Robb. 2015. *The Spectacular Favela: Violence in Modern Brazil*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Menchu, Rigoberta. 2010. *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. Second edition. Brooklyn: Verso.

Course Requirements

Participation: 10%

Participation is an integral part of this course. There are numerous ways you can participate in class, but to start you must first have a punctual attendance record. Attentive listening is also key to class participation as is contributing insightful comments that link class material to your experiences and/or your classmates contributions. You should come to class with at least one thing ready to contribute (a statement, quote or question to share). In addition, students will contribute a current event that connects with the final research paper (due by March 23rd).

Exams: 60%

The course covers three areas of culture: beliefs, actions, and material culture. There will be three exams, and each exam will cover one section of the course material. Exams are based on essay questions (20% each).

Research Paper: 30%

Each student will be responsible for crafting a research topic, annotated bibliography, draft paper, presentation, and final 10-12 page research paper. All parts of this assignment are due on the date assigned. I encourage all of you to consult the Writing Center (first floor Asbury) for suggestions and help with your writing assignments.

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- Participation.....10%
 - One (1) paper.....30%
 - Three (3) essay exams.....60%
- TOTAL 100%

Grading Scale:

A 94%+	A- 90-93%	
B+ 87-89%	B 84-86%	B- 80-83%
C+ 77-79%	C 74-76%	C- 70-73%
D+ 67-69%	D 64-66%	D- 60-63%
F 59%-		

A note on graded materials—you must wait at least 24 hours (but no more than 1 week) before coming to see me about a grade you received on any class material. I am available for consultation regarding any graded assignment only after you have taken sufficient time to read through both your original work and my comments.

The following information will help you better understand the criteria for graded material:
A= exceptionally thought-provoking, original, creative in both content and manner of presentation, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials which are fully supported.

B= presents a solid understanding of the subject matter and an ability to handle the issues and materials encountered in the subject with only minor errors.

C= demonstrates an adequate understanding of the subject matter with central ideas present, but too general, repetitious and not clearly supported or integrated with evidence and details.

D= a minimally acceptable performance with a confusing central idea and lacking details. Parts of the assignment are missing and/or incomplete.

F= shows lack of effort and minimal comprehension of material with major mechanical errors, no thesis, and misuse of key concepts.

Attendance

Regular attendance and active class participation is required. Students should come prepared to engage in class activities--the use of laptop computers or other electronic devices are not permitted. Repeated late arrivals or other behavior that disrupts class (such as leaving during the middle of class) will not be tolerated. Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of the period, and it is your responsibility to make sure you receive credit for your attendance if you arrive after attendance is taken. Irregular attendance and repeated late arrivals will result in the lowering of the final course grade.

Class Preparation

Your class preparation is essential to your required active participation in the course. You must complete assigned readings **before** the class period for which they are assigned. You must come to class with prepared questions and comments regarding the assigned readings (see participation in course requirements). This will help ensure your active participation in class. Things to think about regarding the readings: What was the author's main point/thesis? How does this relate to the class topic? What connection can you make between the reading and your own life?

Assignment Policy

All assignments are due at the beginning of the class session, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will not be accepted without a medical excuse or otherwise documented emergency. The instructor retains the right to lower the grade on any late assignment accepted. If you must miss class on the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to turn the assignment in early.

W Credit

In this W course, you will learn good writing habits that go along with writing as a process. At the end of this course, you will receive both a final letter grade and a competency mark (“W” or “no W”). In order to become W certified, you must produce W quality work by demonstrating your ability to clearly and persuasively present material on exams as well as incorporate supportive course material in your responses. In addition, you should demonstrate your understanding of writing as a process through the crafting of a clearly defined proposal and thorough annotated bibliography, an organized draft, and strong final paper.

Academic Dishonesty

All work must be **your own**. You must give credit to **any** information and/or ideas that you use that are not your own by citing it in your work. Failing to do so will be perceived as plagiarism resulting in a zero on the assignment and possible additional penalties to be decided by the instructor. Use Chicago Manual of Style in-text citations (author/date). If you are unfamiliar with proper citation procedures, you should ask your instructor or consult the W center.

Accommodations

“It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please contact Student Disability Services. Allow one week advance notice to ensure enough time for reasonable accommodations to be made. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be provided on a timely basis. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Union Building Suite 200 or by phone at 658-6267.”

Questions???

I encourage all of my students to take advantage of my office hours, either for questions, concerns, or just “drop-in” discussions. Please feel free to stop by Asbury Hall 219, and if the “official” hours are not convenient or you would like to ensure yourself a specific block of time, we can set up an appointment (office phone x4372 or email acastaneda@depauw.edu).

Course Schedule

Week 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION

January 31st

- Review course syllabus, objective, and format.
Read: Ryan, Edwin. “What is ‘Latin America’?” p. 487-492*

February 2nd

- Read: Jones, Gareth A. “Latin American geographies” p. 5-25* AND Wade, Peter “Race in Latin America” p. 185-199*

WEEK 2: ANCESTORS & BELIEFS

February 7th

- Read: Menchu p. 1-107

February 9th

- Read: Menchu p.108-165
- Film: *Embrace of the Serpent*

WEEK 3:

February 14th

- Read: Menchu p. 166-290

February 16th

- Read: Hagedorn p. 1-72
- Film: *The House of Mother Nature*

WEEK 4:

February 21st

- Read: Hagedorn p. 73-172

February 22nd

- Read: Hagedorn p. 173-240

WEEK 5:

February 28th

- EXAM

March 2nd

- RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE

WEEK 6: MATERIAL CULTURE

March 7th

- Read: Brennan p. 1-90

March 9th

- Read: Brennan p. 91-153

WEEK 7:

March 14th

- Read: Brennan p. 154-220

March 16th

- Read: Jaffee p. 1-92
- Film: *Connected by Coffee*

WEEK 8:

March 21st

- Read: Jaffee p. 93-198

March 23rd

- Read: Jaffee p. 199-266
- LAST DAY TO TURN IN CURRENT EVENT PAPER

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10:

April 4th

- EXAM

April 6th

- ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

WEEK 11: (RE)ACTIONS

April 11th

- Read: Larkins p. 1-108

April 13th

- Read: Larkins p. 109-172
- Film: *City of God*

WEEK 12:

April 18th

- Read: Muehlmann p. 1-133
- Film: *Narco Cultura*

April 20th

- Read: Muehlmann p. 134-190

WEEK 13:

April 25th

- EXAM

April 27th

- DRAFT PAPER DUE

WEEK 14:

May 2nd Writing Conferences

May 4th Presentations

WEEK 15: LAST WEEK OF CLASS

May 9th Presentations

May 11th Concluding thoughts and discussion on what we have learned...
PAPER DUE

NOTE: The instructor retains the right to change the syllabus for this class as necessary.