

COURSE OUTLINE

Anthropology 2216F-650 and First Nations Studies 2216F-650

Cultures of Latin America

Fall 2018

Distance Studies

Instructor: Dr. Adriana Premat

Office: SSC-3425

Office hours: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

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Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: The cultural history of Latin American societies. Topics include the historical formation of indigenous communities, and a wide variety of contemporary social problems in Latin America.

Prerequisite: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Antirequisites: This is a cross-listed course with Anthropology 2216F/G and First Nations Studies 2216F/G and therefore students cannot take both.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course is not an exhaustive overview of Latin American "cultures" but rather an exploration into the power dynamics that have defined life (and death) in the region. The course invites students to: 1) assess the impact of global colonial and neocolonial projects on countries, local populations, and environments in the region; 2) consider the way in which diverse populations in Latin America have contested, adapted and/or embraced foreign or home-grown political and economic projects that have produced or exacerbated poverty, exploitation and violence; and 3) reflect on the significance and limits of revolutionary projects, such as the Cuban revolution and the "third" Bolivian revolution, which have attempted to break away from a history of social injustice and colonialism.

*While taking a broad historical and globally grounded perspective, the course pays special attention to the daily practices, struggles, and aspirations of individuals living in various parts of Latin America. Chapters from the textbook *Faces of Latin America* and a range of pertinent audiovisual material will be thus complemented by anthropological accounts that invite students into the lives of indigenous tin miners, black maids, displaced peasants, sugar cane workers, child street labourers, shanty town dwellers, white middle-class women, maquila workers, urban farmers and legal and illegal migrants associated with different countries of the region. The intention here is to deepen students' knowledge of Latin America while underscoring the value of an anthropological perspective grounded in the particular and the everyday.*

Since this is an online course that values student participation and jointly created insights, it is expected that students will complete weekly lessons, including assigned readings, audiovisual material, asynchronous group activities, and quizzes, sequentially and following set deadlines. A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

- After completing this course students will be able to:
- Explain how colonial and neocolonial processes have shaped Latin America, planting the seed for counterhegemonic movements.
- Identify the way in which nations and marginalized constituencies (indigenous communities, workers, the poor, women, etc.) have been affected by, and have variously reacted to, the spread of neoliberal economic and cultural projects.
- Assess the importance, possibilities and limits of revolutionary projects that have attempted to break away from a history of social injustice and colonialism.
- Critique common stereotypes and misconceptions of the area and its inhabitants.
- Demonstrate the value of an anthropological perspective grounded in the particular and the everyday.
- Collaborate with peers to develop joint insights on class materials and show, via written reflections, the value of concrete case studies in understanding broad societal processes.

Course Materials:

Green D. and S. Branford (2013) *Faces of Latin America*, 4th edition. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Premat, A. (2012) *Sowing Change: The Making of Havana's Urban Agriculture*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.

Additional Readings will be made available through OWL's Course Readings.

Registered students will be able to access information about additional course readings through the course's on-line OWL site before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Introduction Exercise 2%

Map Assignment 3%

Lesson Comprehension Questions 5%

Interview Exercise 8%

Class Debate Activities (Best 5 out of 7 @ 2% each) 10%

4 Written Assignments (8 % each) 32%

Quizzes (Best 5 out of 6 @ 8% each) 40%

Introduction Exercise 2%

Exchanging ideas with peers is an extremely important component of learning and, for this reason, during the course you will be required to join in asynchronous online discussions and brainstorming sessions. In order to do this, you must first get to know each other a little bit. In this exercise, you are to sign up into Voice Thread and briefly introduce yourself to other students in the class. Over the first week, you will return to listen to other students' introductions and respond to two students, preferably someone who has not yet been welcomed to the class. This exercise should be completed in full by Friday 16th at 10 pm to allow you to activate VoiceThread on time for the class debate exercise on Week 2.

Map Exercise 3%

This assignment asks you to familiarize yourself with the location and names of countries considered part of Latin America. After studying a map of the region, you

will complete an online map quiz. Once you have identified all countries correctly, you will take a screen shot of your perfect quiz results and upload it using the assignment tab on OWL by Friday 14th at 4:30 pm. Late submissions will receive a penalty of 5% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends and holidays).

Lesson Comprehension Questions 5%

On weeks when you are not writing a quiz, as you proceed through your weekly lesson, you will be prompted to respond to a few short true and false or multiple choice questions. Each of these questions is worth only 0.5% of the total course grade and they are intended to help you assess your understanding of lesson material. In total, you will answer 10 such questions throughout the term.

Interview Exercise 8%

In preparation for the segment of the course dedicated to Cuba, you will have to interview an acquaintance of yours (it could be a relative, a neighbour or a friend) over 60 years of age about their perspective on the Cuban Revolution. To assist you with this exercise, the professor will provide you with a set of questions you should use as a guideline. After completing the interview, you will have to write a 750 word report telling the class what you found out from your interviewee. You will upload this report, along with your interview notes using the Assignment tab on OWL by Friday November 9th at 4:30 pm.

Late reports will receive a penalty of 5% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends and holidays). Note that the report will not be accepted after one week past the due deadline. If you are struggling to meet the deadline, please get in touch with Academic Counselling as soon as possible to determine if you are eligible for accommodation.

Class Debate Activities 10%

On seven occasions throughout the term, you will be asked to engage in a focused asynchronous discussion, debate or brainstorming session with other students in the class, worth 2% each. These activities will require you to use VoiceThread or Googledoc and follow specific guidelines provided by the professor. Thoughtful contributions that meet required guidelines will receive the highest grade. Each activity will fall within a specified week and will have a set deadline. Late submissions will not be graded but note that only your best 5 out of 7 class debate activities will be computed as part of your final grade.

Written Class Assignments 32%

Four times during the course (September 28, October 19, November 2 and November 30) you are required to submit a 750 word written essay on specific topics covered during course lessons. Specific instructions will be provided for each of these essay assignments, which should be uploaded via the Assignments tab on OWL by 4:30 pm on the specified dates. Late essays will receive a penalty of 5% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends and holidays). If you were to submit your essay 2 days late, the grade that would have otherwise been assigned to that essay would be reduced by 10%. For example, an essay that would have received a grade of 90 % would instead be assigned a grade of 80% if it were submitted 2 days late. Note that the essay will not be accepted after five days past the due deadline. If you are struggling to meet a deadline, please get in touch with Academic Counselling as soon as possible to determine if you are eligible for accommodation.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Quizzes 40%

On alternate weeks throughout the course, you will write a cumulative quiz that will primarily test you on material covered over the current and previous week. Each quiz should take only 15 to 20 minutes to complete. In general, quizzes will be composed of true and false, fill-in-the blank and multiple choice type questions but some short answer questions may be included. Each test will be worth 8% of the total course grade. There will be no makeup quizzes but note that only the best 5 out of 6 quizzes will be computed for your final course grade.

Required Readings

The number of pages you will be expected to read for this course will vary from week to week and will depend on the time taken up by other lesson material (e.g. audiovisuals, debates sessions, etc). In general, you will read from 20-40 pages a week, except for Weeks 10 and 11, when you will be expected to read a full ethnography. Additional lesson activities will be lighter on those weeks to allow you to complete the readings.

Audiovisual Material

The lessons include a range of audiovisual materials, which are an integral part of the lesson. You will be tested on this material, via the quizzes or written assignments.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on three of the four written assignments required for the course.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Consultation with Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Both the instructor and the teaching assistant will hold regular office hours in the virtual class meeting room, which can be accessed through the Collaborate tab in OWL. Just click on Collaborate, then open the "Class Meeting Room" and join in the session during office hours. Once in the virtual room, you will be able to ask questions of the instructors and teaching assistant. If you wish to ask your questions privately, let us know and we can take you into a separate virtual room.

If you need to ask a question outside of office hours, please, follow this link. The professor or teaching assistant will do their best to reply to your message within two working days.

Technology/Equipment

This is an online course and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have the right computer equipment, internet connection, browser, skills, etc., to complete course lessons and assignments. The professor or teaching assistant will not answer questions related to technology. If you run into technical difficulties, please, contact Western Technology Services or OWL help.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a

scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. [These policies are outlined with links to the full policies on the Anthropology website.](#)