

Anthropology 286

Topics in Regional Anthropology: Indigenous South America

Winter 2013

MWF 10- 10:50 am

Tory 1-90

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14-13 Tory Building

Office hours: Fridays 3- 4 pm and by appointment

Objectives

This course is an introduction to South America's diverse Amerindian cultures. We begin with the traditional geographical / culture area classifications (Amazon, Andes, Chaco, Pampas, Circum-Caribbean, Pacific Coast). We will learn how anthropologists have shifted from topographical to historical accounts of native cultural diversity in South America. Finally, we will consider the emergence of self-conscious and politically informed treatments of these same themes by South America's indigenous peoples themselves.

We will discuss: 1) the long historical inter-relationship between Western & Amerindian society and philosophy; 2) why identity has become an increasingly important category for contemporary indigenous peoples; 3) the special problems that property rights (in both culture and land), urbanization, and environmental degradation present for indigenous peoples in South America today and 4) the relevance of anthropology to South American indigenous peoples.

The course draws on physical anthropological and archaeological findings; the accounts of the first colonial adventurers, administrators, and missionaries to travel in South America from the 16th century onward; on documents produced by travelers and anthropologists from the 19th century to the present; and, finally, on literature written both by and about the participants in indigenous social and political movements across the twentieth century and up to the contemporary moment.

By the end of the course, students will obtain a thorough overview of the ecological and cultural diversity of the South American continent. They should be able to label a political map of South America and have a general sense of the social and historical trends shaping its contemporary appearance. Students should be able to name the three largest native language groups in South America, identify their regional distributions, and have at least a passing familiarity with several smaller language groups.

Participants will become knowledgeable about the inter-relations among race, resources, and technology that have shaped politics and civil society in South America in particular and the Americas more generally. Students will be better able to understand, evaluate, and participate in contemporary discussions of identity politics; intellectual/cultural property and traditional knowledge rights; land and natural resource rights; environmental politics, and indigenous revitalization movements in the Americas and across the globe. They will gain a sense of the cultural richness and historical trajectory of the South American experience, and will be prepared to make informed comparisons about commonalities and differences within the American experience, North and South.

Evaluation

There will be a midterm and a final. In week 2 the class will be divided into 4 groups. A 500 word response to the reading is due within one week of each session assigned to your group: for example, if you are in Group 1 you should hand in a response to the Mann reading of January 20th by January 27th. The staggering of the due dates is to allow you to incorporate ideas and perspectives raised in class into your written responses. These response papers will be graded on a 10 point scale: up to 3 points for spelling, grammar, and prose style. Up to 3 points for demonstrating evidence of having completed and understood the reading. Up to 3 points for making an analytical effort that goes beyond summarizing the reading. A final point may be awarded for general excellence.

Midterm:	25 points (50 m/c questions, worth ½ point each)
Final:	25 points (as above)
One-page response papers:	50 points (10 points apiece; 5 during the semester)
TOTAL:	100 points

Attendance philosophy:

“Ninety percent of life is just showing up” - Woody Allen.

Contact policy: *I welcome in-person conversations. I answer email during weekdays, but not in the evening, on weekends, or on holidays. Email is for questions requiring a yes or no answer or to set up appointments to see me in person if you can't make my office hours.*

Required texts:

The following required texts are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Mann, Charles C. (2005) *1491: New revelations of the Americas before Columbus*
- Canessa, Andrew (2012) *Intimate Indigenities: Race, Sex, and History in the Small Spaces of Andean Life*

Schedule

WEEK ONE	Introduction: from topography to history on the “least known continent”
Monday 1/6	Course overview Caetano Veloso, “Soy Loco por ti América” Calle 13, “Latinoamérica” http://blog.pucp.edu.pe/item/177700/per-kumbarikira-video-protagonizado-por-menores-kukama-al-rescate-de-su-lengua
Wed 1/8	Métraux, Alfred. (1946). “Chiriguano and Chané” <i>from</i> Julian Steward, ed. <i>Handbook of South American Indians</i> , vol. III: The Tropical Forest Tribes. Will be posted to eclass.
Fri 1/10	Frank Salomon and Stuart Schwartz, eds. (2000) “Introduction” to the <i>Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas</i> , vol. 3, part 1: South America. Available as an electronic resource through the U of A libraries. Assignment of groups.
WEEK TWO	The first chroniclers: Atlantic Coast and the Andes
Mon 1/13	Staden, Hans (1557). <i>The True History of His Captivity</i> . No reading; I will lecture based in part on the introduction by Neil Whitehead to a new edition published in 2008 by Duke University Press.
Wed 1/15	Guaman Poma de Ayala, Felipe (1615) <i>Nueva Corónica y Buen Gobierno</i> No reading; I will lecture.
Fri 1/17	Hyland, Sabine. (2010) “Sodomy, Sin, and String Writing : The Moral Origins of Andean Khipu.” <i>Ethnohistory</i> 57 (1): 165-173. Available through the electronic resources of the U of A libraries.
WEEK THREE	1491 and before: the evidence from archaeology
Mon 1/20	Mann, Charles C. (2005) <i>1491</i> . chapters 1, 3, and 4. GROUPS 1 & 2
Wed 1/22	Mann, <i>1491</i> . chapters 5, 9, and 10. GROUP 3 & 4
Fri 1/24	Weismantel, Mary. (2004) “Moche sex pots: Reproduction and temporality in ancient South America.” <i>American Anthropologist</i> 106(3): 495-505. Available through the electronic resources of the U of A libraries GROUP 1 *can take until Monday February 3 rd to hand response in*
WEEK FOUR	Culture and history in colonial South America
Mon 1/27	Clastres, Pierre (1974) “Society Against the State” Available at: http://zinelibrary.info/files/societyagainstthestate_0.pdf GROUP 2
Wed 1/29	Silverblatt, Irene. (1997) “Honor, Sex, and Civilizing in the Making of Seventeenth Century Peru”. <i>Journal of the Steward Anthropological Society</i> 25: 181-198. Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries. GROUP 3

& Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo (2012). "The inconstancy of the Indian soul: the encounter of Catholics and cannibals in sixteenth century Brazil" Prickly Paradigm Press. No reading; I will lecture on this essay.

Friday 1/31

No class.

WEEK FIVE

Mon 2/3

Neo-imperialism, the colonial mirror, and "Andeanism"

Galeano, Eduardo. (1973) *The Open Veins of Latin America: five centuries of the pillage of a continent*. Selections, TBA.

Available at: http://www.e-reading.biz/bookreader.php/149187/Open_Veins_of_Latin_America.pdf

GROUPS 4 & 1

Wed 2/5

Taussig, Michael. (1984) "Culture of Terror – Space of Death: Roger Casement's Putumayo Report and the Explanation of Torture" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26 (3): 467-497.

Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries **GROUP 2**

Fri 2/7

Starn, Orin. (1991) "Missing the Revolution: Anthropologists and the War in Peru" *Cultural Anthropology* 6(1): 63-91.

Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries **GROUP 3**

WEEK SIX

Mon 2/10

Coca, Operation Condor, and the era of dictatorships

Weatherford, Jack (1987) "Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia" in

Spradley & McCurdy, eds. *Conformity and Conflict* **Coca, Cocaine, and the Bolivian Reality – pick something.**

Will be posted to eclass **GROUP 4**

Wed 2/12

MIDTERM

Fri 2/14

Spedding, Alison. (1999) "Dreams of Leaving: Life in the Feminine Penitentiary Centre, Miraflores, La Paz, Bolivia." *Anthropology Today* 15 (2): 11-17. **GROUP 4.**

Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries

WEEK SEVEN

Winter reading week

Group 4 papers will be due on Wednesday February 26th.

Film recommendations: *The Mission* (1986), *Missing* (1982), *Our Brand is Crisis* (2005), *No* (2012)

WEEK EIGHT

Mon 2/24

Evo Morales

Cocalero (film)

Wed 2/26

Cocalero continued

Fri 2/28

Discussion: the "leftward turn" from the 1990s to today (Pepe Mujica etc.)

[http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/16/uruguay-jose-mujica-humble-](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/16/uruguay-jose-mujica-humble-president)

president

WEEK NINE

Mon 3/3

Race, Sex, and History in the Small Spaces of Andean Life

Canessa, Andrew. (2012) *Intimate Indigeneities*

Intro, chapter 1, and chapter 2 **GROUP 1**

Wed 3/5

II: chapters 4, 5, and 6 **GROUP 2**

Fri 3/7

II: chapters 7 & 8 and Postscript **GROUP 3**

WEEK TEN

Mon 3/10

Demography and politics in Amazonia

McSweeney, Kendra and Shahna Arps. (2005) "A 'Demographic Turnaround': The rapid growth of indigenous populations in lowland Latin America." *Latin American Research Review* 40 (1): 3-29.

Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries. **GROUP 4**
Carneiro da Cunha interview on "demographic volatility"

Wed 3/12	Conklin, Beth and Laura Graham. (1995) "The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-Politics" <i>American Anthropologist</i> 97 (4): 695-710. Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries	GROUP 1
FRI 3/14	Ramos, Alcida. (1994) "The hyperreal Indian." <i>Critique of Anthropology</i> 14, 153-71. Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries	GROUP 2
WEEK ELEVEN	Case study: the Kayapó	
Mon 3/17	Turner, Terence. (1991) "Representing, resisting, rethinking: historical transformations of Kayapó culture and anthropological consciousness." <i>From George Stocking, ed. Colonial Situations: Essays on the Contextualization of Ethnographic Knowledge.</i>	GROUP 3
	Will be posted to eclass	
Wed 3/19	<i>The Kayapó: Out of the Forest</i> (film)	
Fri 3/21	Finish film, discussion	
WEEK TWELVE	The Yanomami Controversy	
Mon 3/24	Sahlins, Marshall. (2000) "Jungle Fever" <i>Washington Post Book World</i> : Dec. 10 p. X.01 Available through the electronic subscriptions of the U of A Libraries	GROUP 4
Wed 3/26	<i>Secrets of the Tribe</i> (film)	
Fri 3/28	Finish film, discussion	
WEEK THIRTEEN	Thinking continentally, thinking hemispherically	
Mon 3/31	Lowrey, Kathleen. (2008) "Incommensurability and new economic strategies among indigenous and traditional peoples." <i>Journal of Political Ecology</i> 15: 61-74. Available at: http://jpe.library.arizona.edu/Volume15/Volume_15.html	
Wed 4/2	Chevron Ecuador case and Alberta's oil sands	
Fri 4/4	<i>The Motorcycle Diaries</i> (film)	
WEEK FOURTEEN	Soy loco por ti América	
Mon 4/7	<i>The Motorcycle Diaries</i> continued	
Wed 4/9	Final exam	

Enjoy your summer!