

**Anthropology 185. Peoples of Latin America
Santa Clara University. Spring Term, 2010**

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Class: TR 11:50-1:35 PM – O'Connor 109
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Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the environmental, cultural, economic, and political diversity of Latin America. We will first study the region's physical geography, its rich pre-Columbian past, and the impact of the European invasion upon its native peoples. Subsequently, the course will focus on some of the most pressing regional problems of our time: widespread poverty, diminishing natural resources, the clash between religion and politics, the role of the U.S. in Latin America's history, and the recent impact of globalization on the national economies. The purpose of this class is to gain insight into Latin America's cultural history and thus understand its role in the global scene today.

Course Objectives:

Anthropology 185 is organized to satisfy the general goals and objectives of the Core Curriculum (Requirement in Culture and Ideas 3). It also fulfills the Social Science and World Cultures/Global requirement under the "Old Core." Upon its completion, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of Latin America's pre-Columbian past by learning about the early history of migration into the Americas and the formation of state societies in Mesoamerica and the Andes. They will be able to recall the most significant developments connected to the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. Additionally, students will identify the history of the African Diaspora in the Caribbean, Brazil, and other parts of the continent—as well as Africa's contribution to the region's social and cultural fabric. Supplementary, students will critically debate the environmental and social impact of the European invasion upon the land and its native inhabitants in the New World (*Global Cultures, Diversity*)
2. Identify the process of formation of multi-racial and multi-cultural society after 1492. Through the reading of anthropological texts, students will be able to analyze how Latin America evolved into a rigidly stratified and ethnically divided society as it created government and church institutions which predominantly favored the elites of European descent. By examining relationships between Latin America and the rest of the world, past and present, students will have a grasp of the social and economic conditions of

inequality that have permeated the history of the region and that continue to be in place in today's interdependent world (*Critical Thinking, Global Cultures, Complexity*)

3. Reflect on the human condition in Latin America today by looking into race, ethnicity, and social class—as well as to the growing phenomenon of urbanization, population growth and migration. As students examine this culturally unfamiliar area of the world, they will recognize similarities with their own U.S. culture (i.e. a racial history that combined American Indian, African, and European elements) as well as striking differences (i.e., the dominant role of the Church, land-holding elites, male cultural domination or “machismo.”) Additionally, students will be able to highlight the economic and cultural contributions of recent Latin American migrants to the U.S. (*Perspective, Critical Thinking*)

Required Reading Materials:

Castillo-Guilbault, Rose. **Farmworker's Daughter: Growing Up Mexican in America.** Heyday Books, Berkeley, 2005

Kidder, Tracy. **Mountains Beyond Mountains.** Random House Trade Paper Backs, New York, 2004

Sanabria, Harry. **The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean.** Pearson Education Inc., 2007

[There will be some articles placed on Angel]

Course Requirements:

1. **Midterm Exam.** There will be a multiple-choice and essay question **midterm exam on Thursday, May 6.** It will cover the first half of the course. Remember: there are no makeup exams. **This exam accounts for 25% of your final grade.**

2. **Final Exam.** There will be a multiple-choice and essay question **final exam** to be given on **Tuesday, June 8 at 9:10 AM** on the material covered during the second half of the course. This final must be taken on the assigned date and there will be no makeup exams. **It will represent 25% of your final grade.**

3. **Class Participation, Quizzes, Class Presentation.** All students will be expected to make a **class presentation** on a work chosen in consultation with your instructor. These 15 minute presentations will begin shortly after the midterm exam. There will also be **two short papers based on long-feature movies** assigned for this class. This presentation, along with quizzes and class participation will **make up 25% of your final grade.**

4. **A 10-12 page Research and Reflection Paper.** Students are also expected to write a research and reflection paper on a topic that emerges out of your class presentation. The theme of this paper must be discussed with your instructor and approved in advance. The

structure of the paper will be as follows: defining the central question, conducting a careful literature review on the topic, interpreting the available data, and arriving at your own well thought-out conclusions. **This paper will be due at noon on Monday, June 7. It will represent 25% of your final grade.**

Class attendance is required. Three un-excused absences will lower your final grade one full letter. Two late arrivals to class will count as one absence.

Grade scale:

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|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| A = 4.0 | B- = 2.7 - 2.9 | D+ = 1.3 - 1.6 |
| A- = 3.7 - 3.9 | C+ = 2.3 - 2.6 | D = 1.0 - 1.2 |
| B+ = 3.3 - 3.6 | C = 2.0 - 2.2 | D- = 0.7 - 0.9 |
| B = 3.0 - 3.2 | C- = 1.7 - 1.9 | F = below 0.7 |

Academic Integrity Protocol. A student found guilty of a dishonest act may be subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal from the university as a result of the student judicial process as described in the community handbook (Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 359)

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction: Latin America at a Crossroads (March 29-April 2)

- Mar 30: Introduction - review of syllabus, class roster, course expectations
- April 1: Sanabria, Chapter 1: *Anthropology, Latin America, and the Caribbean*, pp. 1-16
- April 1: Angel – “*Relationships among the World System, Indigenous Peoples, and Ecological Anthropology in the Endangered Amazon*” by Leslie E. Sponsel, pp. 31-49

Week 2: Human and Natural Diversity (April 5-9)

- April 6: Sanabria, Chapter 2: *Introducing Latin America and the Caribbean*, pp. 17-49
- April 6: Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*: Parts I, pp. 1 – 44
- April 8: Angel - “*Anthropology and Human Rights in Latin America*” by Ellen Messer, pp. 18-30
- April 8: Movie - “*Enemies of War*”

Week 3: The Iberian and Native Heritages (April 12-16)

- April 13: Sanabria, Chapter 3: *Society and Culture Before the Europeans*, pp. 50-75
- April 13: Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*: Part II and III, pp. 45-181
- April 15: Sanabria, Chapter 4: *Conquest, Colonialism and Resistance*, pp. 76-109
- April 15: Angel - "*Indigenous Organizations; Rising Actors in Latin America*" by Rodolfo Stavenhagen, pp. 151-164

Week 4: Race, Cultural Variation, and Social Stratification (April 19-23)

- April 20: Sanabria, Chapter 5: *Cultural Politics of Race and Ethnicity*, pp. 110-145
- April 20: Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*: Part IV, pp. 181 – 237
- April 22: Movie, "*The Motorcycle Diaries*," reflection paper due on Tuesday, April 29

Week 5: Gender and Sexuality (April 26-30)

- April 27: Sanabria, Chapter 6, *Cultural Constructions of Gender and Sexuality*, pp. 146-180
- April 27: Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*: Part V and Afterword, pp. 241-301
- April 29: Angel - "*Death Without Weeping*" by Nancy Shepherd Hughes, pp. 497-504

Week 6: Religion in Latin America (May 3-7)

- May 4: Sanabria, Chapter 7: *Religion and Everyday Life*, pp. 181-213
- May 4: Angel - "*Dona Flora and the Informal Sector Debate: Entrepreneurial Strategies in the Bolivian Enterprise*" by Hans Buechler, pp. 189- 202
- **Thursday, May 6: Midterm Exam**

Week 7: Cultural Perceptions of Health and Illness (May 10-14)

- May 11: Sanabria, Chapter 8: *Striving for Health and Coping with Illness*, pp. 214-249
- May 11: Castillo-Guibault, *Farmworker's Daughter*, pp. 1-55
- May 13: Movie, "*Maria, Full of Grace*," reflection paper due on Tuesday, May 18

Week 8: Economics and Globalization (May 17-21)

- May 18: Sanabria, Chapter 10: *Perspectives on Globalization*, pp. 281-313
- May 18: Castillo-Guibault, *Farmworker's Daughter*, pp. 57-116
- May 20: Angel - "*The Culture of Poverty*" by Oscar Lewis, pp. 408-417
- May 20: Student Presentations

Week 9: Popular Culture (May 24-28)

- May 25: Sanabria, Chapter 11: *Manifestations of Popular Culture*, pp. 314-350
- May 25: Castillo-Guibault, *Farmworker's Daughter*, pp. 117-182
- May 27: Angel - "*More Terrible than Death: Massacres, Drugs, and America's War in Colombia—the Hippopotamus*"
- May 27: Student Presentations

Week 10: Politics, Violence, Striving for a Just World (May 31-June 4)

- June 1: Sanabria, Chapter 12: *Violence, Memory, and Striving for a Just World*, pp. 351-385
- June 1: Angel - "*God is an American*" by Bernard Arcand, pp. 399-407
- June 3: Student Presentations

Monday, June 7: final paper is due at noon

Tuesday, June 8: final exam at 9:10 AM