



Current Issues in the Anthropology of Latin America

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The aim of this module is to provide a framework for understanding current social, cultural and political issues in Latin American.

Throughout the module we will engage with anthropological understandings of a number of key ideas including indigeneity, race, gender, colonialism, nation states and the environment.

Each week will be centred on ethnographic pieces that offer interesting reflections on contemporary issues as well as anthropological theory.



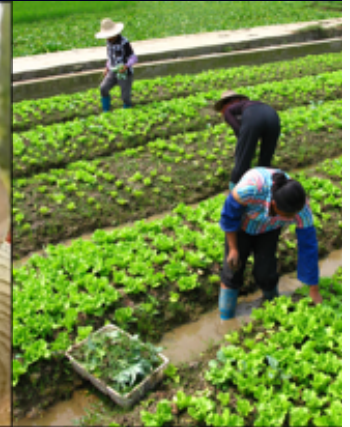
We will cover a number of different issues, some in particular weeks and others that cross-cut other topics



Indigeneity



Race



Emigration



'The Other'



Environment



Development



Politics



Belo Monte



1492



We begin with a brief introduction to the period of European contact and conquest and consider the continuing social, political and cultural consequences of this.

Christopher Columbus



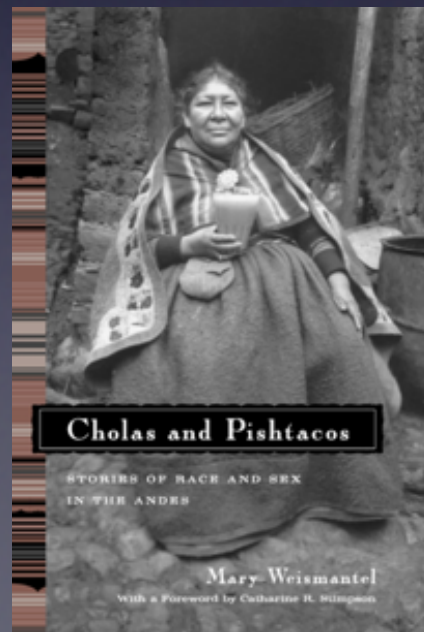
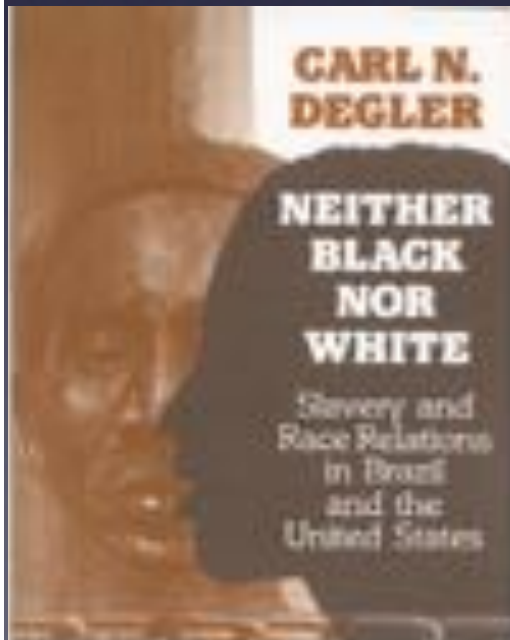
We will consider both European and Indigenous conceptions of contact, conquest and difference.

“For people who live in a cosmos where men can put on white-lipped peccary clothing, or jaguars can dress like humans, the decision ‘to look like white people’ is not as dramatic, nor as catastrophic, an act as it has struck many outsiders” (Gow 2001:309).



Other issues

Racial Democracy / Binary Exclusion



Cities and Urban Migration



Music, Festivals and Identity

The Theft of *Carnaval*: National Spectacle and Racial Politics in Rio de Janeiro

Robin E. Sheriff
Florida International University



Eco-Tourism

BOLIVIA PACHAMAMA is an authorized agent of:
Deep Rainforest - Tour Operator

Machi National Park
Always happy people

Boat to Rurrenabaque
Best departure:
Every day
Every day
Every day

River Navigation
Nice walks in the Rainforest

The Only Jungle Tours that start from La Paz or Cochaca and finish in Rurrenabaque - Don't miss on the experience!

Enjoy professional National food
Live the Jungle as it is

Jungle Rafting to Rurrenabaque

Delicious traditional local cuisine
High level of assistance

Best departure
The best Rafting Experience

Feather Crown Ayahuasca retreats and ceremonies



ShamanPortal
The resource for all things shamanic

Region: Southwest

Location: Napo, Ecuador, South America

Email: feathercrown.ecuador@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.feathercrown.com>

Description:

Intensive work with the sacred healing and visionary plant Ayahuasca during extended retreat in the tropical paradise of Ecuador under the guidance of an experienced indigenous shaman-healer. Magical introduction to the world of Ayahuasca or opportunity to learn more from the Medicine. More information at www.feathercrown.com



Transnational Identities and Communities



Throughout the module I draw on my own research experiences in Peru, Brazil and Bolivia



Students are encouraged, wherever possible, to draw on their own experiences or knowledge of the region plus ideas and theories from other modules.



The module is based around weekly 3 hour seminars.

This format offers the best chance for students to genuinely engage in the topics each week.

The time is broken up into formal lecturing, group work and discussions. I also use various audio and visual examples to help students engage with the topic and each other.



A key theme of the module is the Heterogeneity of the region,



its spaces and places



A key theme of the module is the Heterogeneity of the region



its people and cultures...



This means that students have lots of scope to pursue their own theoretical and ethnographic interests when they write their 4,000 word essays for the module assessment.

Previous Student-Chosen Essay Titles include:

Invisible Voices: Brazilian Street Children as a Product of Racism

The Masked Struggle: A Study of Class, Ethnic and National Identities in Mexican Lucha Libre

Formal Schooling, Indigenous Minds: Reconceptualising Childhood in Latin America

Narco-Terrorism and Colombian Youths: The fluidity of drugs and the frailty of the Colombian state

The Twisted Serpent: A study of Ayahuasca Shamanism, its consumption and representations

Culture as a Weapon: Identity and resistance in Brazil's favelas

Preserving Indigenous Identities: For Whose Benefit?

Race and Religion in Contemporary Brazil: Afro-Brazilian Religions and the Construction of Identity

Pierced Pentecostals & Profiteering Priests: Syncretism, Reciprocity and Resilience amongst Local Religious Experiences in a Globalised Latin America

Students seem to genuinely enjoy the module:

Module Evaluation Results by Teaching Group

Show me: Numeric Responses Written Responses

Numeric Responses (Convenor View)

L6096 Anthropology of Latin America (Autumn Teaching 14/15)

Question	Seminar 1 (25)
1. The module was well organised and ran smoothly	5
2. The module matched my expectations; the content was in line with the module description	5
3. Lecturers were good at explaining things	5
4. Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not know	4
5. Clear information about the assessment of this module, and the marking criteria, was provided	4.5
6. The learning resources for this module, including for example Study Direct, the Library and any special equipment and facilities, met my needs	5
7. Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of this module	5

1. What are the best features of the module?

- A great variety of topics which I really enjoyed learning about.
- Course content was great, questions with the key readings helped me to start thinking more critically about them before bringing that to class.
 - Evan is an engaging lecturer which was necessary for a 3 hour class. The content of the course was really fascinating too.
 - I really enjoyed the week and Music and culture and looking at the revolutionary aspects of hiphop in Cuba. Also excellent teaching.
 - Really interesting and content every week and very engaging class materials (via the powerpoint; e.g. videos, music, photos, ethnographies, readings etc)
 - The variety of topics covered in each week.
 - Lots of resources - film and text really helped to engage in the module
 - Lots of videos and a good amount of history was explained.
 - The variety of topics, the engagement with seminars as it was mostly interactive.

**I look forward to welcoming
you on to the module**



Seminar Titles:

1. Introduction: Contact and Imagining
2. Nation Building: Colonialism and After
3. Nature and Society
4. Race and the Politics of Similarity and Difference
5. Indigenous Peoples: Politics and Representation
6. Beauty, Sex and Gender
7. Cities: Space, Inequality and Violence
8. Music and Dance: Identity and Politics
9. Migration and Transnationalism