

Anthropology of Latin America – Sample 10 week syllabus

Required Reading:

R. Ben Penglase, *Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela: Urban Violence and Daily Life*. Rutgers University Press, 2014.

Dwight B. Heath, ed. *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America*, 3rd edition. Waveland Press, 2002.

Additional articles available via the University's library

Week 1: Introducing Latin America: Representations and Realities

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, "Why Latin America?" and Daniel Levine, "Constructing Culture and Power in Latin America," in Heath, *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America*.
- Ben Penglase, *Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela*, read Chapter 1: "To Live Here You Have to Know How to Live."

Week 2: The anthropological enterprise: ethnography in Latin America

- Kenneth Kensinger, "An Experiment in Cross-Cultural Communications" and Jeffrey Ehrenreich, "Worms, Witchcraft and Wild Incantations" in Heath.
- Ben Penglase, *Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela*, read Chapter 2: "Now You Know What It's Like": Ethnography in a State of (In)security

Week 3: Colonial and historical legacies

- Blenda Femenías, "Ethnic Artists and the Appropriation of Fashion" and Stanley Brandes, "The Day of the Dead as Mexican National Symbol" in Heath.

Week 4: Economic systems, trade and power relations

- Eric Wolf, "Aspects of Group Relations in a Complex Society" and Michael Kearney, "Borders and Boundaries of State and Self" in Heath.
- Beverly Chiñas, "Market Vendors vs Multinationals" and Karin Tice, "Kuna Molas and the Global Economy" in Heath.
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Chapter 3: A Familiar Hillside and Dangerous Intimates

Week 5: Religion and worldview

- Sidney Greenfield, "The Pragmatics of Conversion in the Brazilian Religious Marketplace" and Eric Canin, "Minguito, Managua's Little Saint" in Heath

Week 6: Poverty and inequality

- Oscar Lewis, "The Culture of Poverty," in Heath
- (recommended: Judith Goode and Edwin Eames, "An Anthropological Critique of the Culture of Poverty," In Gmelch and Zenner. *Urban Life*.)

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, “Death without Weeping” and Jody Glittenberg, “Empty Breasts and Empty Fields” in Heath

Week 7: Kinship and gender

- George Foster, “The Dyadic Contract in a Mexican Village” and Stephen O Murray, “Family, Social Insecurity and the ‘Underdevelopment’ of Gay Institutions” in Heath
- Catherine Boyle, “Touching Air: The Cultural Force of Women in Chile” and María del Carmen Feijoo and Mónica Gogna, “Women in the Transition to Democracy” in Heath
- Matthew Gutmann, “The Meanings of Macho,” in Louise Lamphere, Helena Ragone and Patricia Zavella, eds. *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Life*.
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Chapter 4, Tubarão and Seu Lázaro’s Dog

Week 8: Race, ethnicity and identity

- Anani Dzidzienyo, “No Longer Invisible: Afro-Latin Americans Today,” in Heath
- Florencia Mallon, “Indian Communities, Political Cultures and the State,” *Journal of Latin American Studies*. 24, 1992: 35-53
- Howard Winant, “Rethinking Race in Brazil,” *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 24(1), 1992:173-192.
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Chapter 5: “The Men Are in the Area”: Police, Race and Place

Week 9: Activism and social movements

- Beth Conklin, “Body Paint, Feathers and VCRs: ... Amazonian Activism” and George Collier, “Restructuring Ethnicity in Chiapas” in Heath
- George Yúdice, “Afro Reggae: Parlaying Culture into Social Justice,” *Social Text* 19(4), Winter 2001.
- Film: excerpts from “Favela Rising”

Week 10: Globalization and place: learning from Latin Americans

- Joseph Bastien, “The Healing Touch of Love” and Abigail Adams, “Gringas, Ghouls and Guatemala” in Heath
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Conclusion: “It Was Here That Estella was Shot”