

ANTHROPOLOGY/INDIGSTUD 2216F-650

Cultures of Latin America

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2020

Instructor: Adriana Premat

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Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: This course is conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there are tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: A journey into the political and economic history of the region that pays attention to the daily lives, as well as the momentous struggles, of its culturally diverse inhabitants. Topics covered include economic dependency and exploitation, urban poverty, social stratification, "race", indigenous movements, state terror, peaceful resistance and revolution.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 2216F/G, Indigenous Studies 2216F/G.

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

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 local populations, social relations, environments, the economy and politics of 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.
- 3) Reflect on the significance and limits of revolutionary projects, such as 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 at different points in time. The intention here is to deepen students' knowledge of the

region 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:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain how colonial and neocolonial processes have shaped Latin America and planted the seeds for past and contemporary 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.

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%
- 10 Lesson Comprehension Questions (.5% each) 5%
- 3 Class Debate Activities (6% each) 18%
- 2 Written Assignments (15% each) 30%
- Quizzes (10% each) 40%
- Participation 5%

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 sign into VoiceThread prior to the first week of classes so

you can be assigned to a group by the instructor. By Friday September 10th at 4:30 pm you should have introduced yourself to other students in your group and will have the remainder of the week to listen to other students' introductions and respond to at least one of them by Sunday, September 13th at 4:30 pm.

Class Debate Activities – 18%

On three 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 6% 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 two set deadlines: one for your original contribution and one for your response to other students. The first will be due by 4:30 pm on the Thursday of the corresponding week and the second by 4:30 pm on the Sunday of the same week. Late submissions will not be graded or included as part of your final grade.

Written Assignments – 30%

Two times during the course (October 10th and November 28th), you are required to submit a 1000-1250 word written essay on material covered during course lessons. Each paper will be worth 15% of the total course grade and specific instructions will be made available to students on the course OWL site. The essays should be uploaded via the Assignments tab on OWL by 9:30 am 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%

Every three weeks throughout the course (on Weeks 3, 6, 9 and 12), you will write a quiz that will primarily test you on material covered over the current and the previous two weeks. Each quiz should take only 30 to 40 minutes to complete (times will vary depending on the type of questions included). 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 10% of the total course grade. Since you can choose when during the assigned week you are ready to write the quiz, there will be no makeup quizzes.

Participation – 5%

Throughout the course, at the beginning of 10 of the 12 lessons, students will be required to submit comments or respond to one or two survey questions for which there is no wrong or right answer. The intention of these questions is to give the professor, teaching assistants, and the rest of the class a sense of the knowledge base of the group before commencing each lesson. You will be credited 0.5 points for your submissions per lesson.

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.

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, debates, comprehension questions or written assignments.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit all two written assignments and receive a passing grade on one of two written assignments.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Consultation with Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Both the instructor and the teaching assistants 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 instructor and teaching assistants. 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 the Piazza link provided on the syllabus posted on the OWL site and post your question there for everyone to read. The professor or teaching assistants 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 assistants 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 medical accommodation, accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences in Western's Academic Calendar by clicking on this link:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>

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