

Peoples & Cultures of Latin America & the Caribbean

ANTH-237-2 · J Term 2027 · Hartwick College

Professor Jason Antrosio (he/him/his)

Class meetings: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 1:00–3:30pm

Course dates: January 4–29, 2027 (no class Wednesdays or Monday, January 18 / MLK Day)

Preliminary draft — shared for J Term 2027 course planning and learning-agreement reference; details subject to change.

Course Description

This course explores anthropological approaches to the peoples and places called Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on contemporary life across the region. Through a series of ethnographic case studies, we examine the most pressing issues communities are facing today—including race and racism, citizenship and belonging, gender, language, politics and power, political violence and its legacies, extraction and environmental resilience, tourism, and migration. A recurring theme is the active role of the region's peoples: these are not passive landscapes but places where people make and remake their worlds. We pair each theme with a film or documentary, and we treat ethnography itself as a way of knowing.

Required Text

Melanie A. Medeiros and Jennifer R. Guzmán, eds., *Ethnographic Insights on Latin America and the Caribbean* (University of Toronto Press, 2023). <https://utppublishing.com/doi/book/10.3138/9781487551506>

Assessment

- **Four quizzes:** a short multiple-choice quiz (~10 questions) each Friday, based on that week's readings and films. Open book and open note.
- **In-class writing:** roughly one hour of short-answer writing each Friday, completed in class.
- **Participation:** attendance, preparedness, and engagement in discussion.

Course Schedule

Week One — Framing: Ethnography, History, Race

Mon Jan 4 Introduction & Chapter 1

Ch. 1 "Using Ethnography to Learn about Latin America and the Caribbean"
Film

Tue Jan 5 Latin American & Caribbean History

Ch. 3 "Check Your Narratives: Essentials for Understanding Latin American and Caribbean History, 1400–Present"
Film

Thu Jan 7 Section Two — Race, Racialization, and Racism

Ch. 4 "Raciality and Belonging in Cuban Tourism"

Ch. 5 "Protecting White Comfort and White Supremacy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil"

Ch. 6 "The 'Paradoxical' Persistence of Haitian Vodou after the Cholera Epidemic"

Film

Fri Jan 8 Chapter 2 + Quiz 1 + in-class writing

Ch. 2 "Old New World: An Archaeological Introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean"

Week Two — Belonging, Gender, Language

Mon Jan 11 Section Three — Ethnicity, Citizenship, and Belonging

Ch. 7 "Language and the Emplacement of Indigenous Citizenship in Peru"

Ch. 8 "Post-Multicultural Anxieties? Trajectories of Indigenous Citizenship in La Guajira, Colombia"

Ch. 9 "A Panamanian of West Indian Descent: An Autoethnographic Study of Citizenship and Belonging"

Tue Jan 12 Section Four — Gender and Intersectionality

Ch. 10 "The Racial Politics of Queer, Urban, Second-Generation Indigenous Lima Locals"

Ch. 11 "Racialized Geographies and the "War on Drugs": Gender Violence, Militarization, and the Criminalization of Indigenous Women in Mexico"

Film

Thu Jan 14 Section Five — Language in Society

Ch. 13 "Rap Originario and Language Revitalization in Southern Mexico: The ADN Maya Collective"

Ch. 14 "Kreyòl in Cuba: Writing Resistance, Affirming Haitian Heritage"

Ch. 15 "Linguistic Bias or a Chance to Get Ahead: Linguistic Repertoires in Aruban and Curaçaoan Schools"

Film

Fri Jan 15 Chapter 12 + Quiz 2 + in-class writing

Ch. 12 "After the Mosquito: Caring for Children with Congenital Zika Syndrome in Bahia, Brazil"

Week Three — Politics and Violence (No class Monday, MLK Day)

Tue Jan 19 Section Six — Politics and Power

Ch. 16 "Congressional Candidates and Political Campaigns in Clientelist Systems: Condoms and Concrete in Oaxaca, Mexico"

Ch. 17 "NGOs as "Necessary Evils": Challenges of Doing Good in Urban Northeast Brazil"

Ch. 18 "The Role of Masculinity in Connecting Knowledge and Politics: Pension Experts in Chile"

Film

Thu Jan 21 Section Seven — Political Violence and Its Legacies

Ch. 20 "Violence and the Ethnographic Turn in Contemporary Colombian Art"

Ch. 21 "Film Reception and Audience Ethnography: Charting Local Imaginaries of Violence in Contemporary Argentina and Colombia"

Ch. 22 "Cementerio XXX: The Desaparecidos of "Post-Conflict" Guatemala"

Film

Fri Jan 22 Chapters 19 & 23 + Quiz 3 + in-class writing

Ch. 19 "Indigenous Governance and Legal Pluralism: Constitutional Reform and Political Conflict in Bolivia"

Ch. 23 "A Crack in the Wall: Ethnography as Solidarity with Indigenous Political Prisoners in Oaxaca, Mexico"

Week Four — Extraction, Tourism, Migration

Mon Jan 25 Extraction, Displacement, and Resilience

Ch. 27 "Music, Movements, and Maria: Narratives of Music in Post-Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico"

Ch. 29 "Forced Displacement and Indigenous Resettlement Planning in Colombia's Coal Region"

Ch. 30 "No a la Mina": Indigenous Organizations' Rejection of Toxic Mega-Mining in Mexico's Isthmus of Tehuantepec"

Film

Tue Jan 26 Section Ten — Tourism and Its Effects

Ch. 31 "Structural Racism and Occupational Segregation in the Ecotourism Industry of Northeast Brazil"

Ch. 32 "Between the Edible and the Inedible: Cultural Tourism and Culinary Meaning in the Ecuadorian Amazon"

Film

Thu Jan 28 Section Eleven — Migration and Kinship

Ch. 34 "Digital Solidarities, Transnational Families, and the Nicaraguan Refugee Crisis in Costa Rica"

Ch. 35 "Love, Money, and a Secret Divorce: Patriarchy and Senior Women's Caregiving in Mexican Migration"

Ch. 36 "I Am Going without Knowing the History of My People": Young People's Engagement with the Past, Present, and Future in the Guatemalan Diaspora in Southern Mexico"

Film

Fri Jan 29 Quiz 4 + in-class writing