

Anthropology of Latin America
ANT 3702 - Fall 2016

Instructor: Raquel Machaqueiro

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Lecture time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 09:35 to 10:50 **Location:** MON353

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00 to 01:00 (or by appointment) **Location:** 2110 G St. - BB Building room 102 (basement).

Introduction

This course will analyze the history and cultures of Brazil from an anthropological perspective. Topics will include history, politics, religion, identity, and nature. We will start with historical issues (conquest, colonization, slavery) that will provide more context into more specific issues and case-studies along the course. However, we will not necessarily follow a chronological perspective, neither will we focus on Brazil alone - other geographical connections will be traced.

The goal of this course is to provide students with more knowledge about Brazil but, more importantly, to provide students with anthropological tools to address topics that have characterized the study of this geographical area. Students are thus expected to approach all the readings in a critical perspective, and to develop their own anthropological take on a relevant topic of their interest in the final paper for this course. All readings must be completed before each class.

Course prerequisites are ANT1002 or ANT1004.

Over 15 weeks, students will spend 75 minutes twice a week, per week in lecture (37.5 hours for the semester). Homework and other out-of-class work is estimated at around 300 minutes per week (75 hours for the semester) and includes a 3-hour final exam for which approximately 10 hours of review is assumed.

Learning Goals - General

This course will contribute to student mastery of:

- Critical thinking skills, where critical thinking is defined as analyzing and engaging with the concepts that underlie an argument;
- Cross-cultural perspectives, where international institutions and practices are analyzed, and the importance of cultural knowledge is emphasized as a fundamental aspect of human nature.

Learning Goals - Specific

By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- Understand the significant historical aspects which shape the country;
- Understand the major cultural aspects which shape the country;
- Distinguish the more “traditional” view of Brazil found in domains of political science and economics from an anthropological perspective on practice and sign-related behavior;
- Be able to critically engage with concepts such as *race*, *lusotropicalism*, *nature*, or *carbon*.

Requirements

1. Attendance and participation - 20%

Participation means offering opinions on the readings, films, or lectures, and asking questions for clarification, or in order to elicit conversation with fellow students. Absences will have a profound effect on each grade for a variety of reasons. First, all material from discussions, lectures, films, and readings will be tested on the midterm and final. But also, knowledge will be cumulative, and in lectures, I will reference previous topics. For this reason, students must: 1) attend every class; 2) complete reading for that class; 3) complete in-class assignments; 4) contribute to in-class discussion, some of which will take place in small groups; and 5) practice ‘academic integrity’ (see below). There will be no make-ups for missed assignments, or exams. I will award four points for in-class participation, so if you want to do well in class, speak up; in borderline cases, this seemingly tiny four percent can really make a difference.

In order to monitor attendance, I will distribute a sign-up sheet at the beginning of each class. *If you fail to get your name onto that sign up sheet, you were not “here,” so it is your job to remember to sign in. Signing in after-the-fact is not permitted.* I award 1/3 point for each class attended. Missing class, thus, means that not only are you missing out on the course content, which will be cumulative, but you are also losing a third of a point. *Attendance is both mandatory and crucial.*

*[Signing in for someone who is not present in order to cover for them will mean that both you **and** the other person do not receive credit for that particular class. If this happens more than once, it will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.]*

2. Research paper - 20%

Write an eight to ten page paper (any common 12 pt. font, double spaced) in which you address one of the themes from our weekly readings and lectures. Check your paper topic with me by: a) stopping by my office hours; b) asking me about it after class; c) sending me an email. I don’t require that you check your topic with me, but I strongly advise it.

The paper should use social sciences notation, and you should cite at least two scholarly research articles from outside the course, in addition to pertinent course materials. I will provide a separate handout on the paper requirements, and will also discuss them in class. Please note the course policy on Academic Integrity, below.

Your paper will be evaluated on:

Thesis - 2 pts.

Structure - 5 pts.

Analysis - 5 pts.

Logic and argumentation - 5 pts.

Mechanics - 3 pts.

Papers are due at the *beginning* of the class in which they are due. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day your paper is late past the deadline (so an A goes to an A-, an A- to a B+, and so forth). Extensions will not be granted.

*The paper is due at the **start** of class on November 22nd. I deduct 1/3 of a grade for each day the paper is late. Thus, at 2:30PM Tuesday, November 22nd, the paper is a day late. By a third of a grade, I mean that if your paper was an A, but you turned it in to me on Wednesday morning, it automatically becomes an A-. If it was an A-, it becomes a B+. And so forth.*

3. Midterm exam - 25%

There will be a Midterm exam with a map, Concepts-Process-People identifications, and a short essay. *The exam will be cumulative – that is, based on material from the entire course up to that point, including readings, lectures, discussions, and audio-visual materials.*

4. Final exam - 35%

The final exam will include Concepts-Process-People, short and long essays. *The exam will be cumulative – that is, based on material from the entire course, including readings, lectures, discussions, and audio-visual materials.*

Grading Scale for Final Grade

93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
84-87	B
80-83	B-
78-79	C+

74-77	C
70-73	C-
68-69	D+
64-67	D
less than 60	F

Students with **disabilities** are encouraged to contact the instructor asap.

If you plan to take **religious holidays**, please notify the instructor in writing (an email will do) of your plans to do so by the end of the second week.

Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic integrity. This means doing your own work, and when you use *the words and ideas of others in any written work, you must:* 1) identify quotations with quotations marks; and 2) indicate the source of ideas that are not your own using social sciences notation form, including a page number. If you have any questions at all about what this means, you should speak to the instructor. Plagiarism, and all breaches of academic integrity (for example, the sale of lecture-notes, or use of content from the internet as though it was your own), will be severely dealt with in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. For more information on The George Washington University's policies on academic integrity, consult: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

The policy on academic integrity in this course is that if you are caught cheating on any assignment or exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment or exam. This infraction will be reported to the University's Academic Integrity Council. You will be clearly notified by the instructor in person or by email before the Council is informed. Further action may be taken in accordance with the university's policies.

READINGS

Readings for this course are available on the Blackboard course site.

The only mandatory book is available at the bookstore:

Cunha, Manuela Carneiro da. 2009. *"Culture" and Culture: Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Rights*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

In addition to these readings, the instructor may assign readings that will also be posted on Blackboard. You will be responsible for all films, and handouts given out in class.

WEEK 1

An Anthropology of a region - August 30

Wolf, Eric. 1982. "Introduction." *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Conquest - September 1

Letter from Caminha

Chapter from: Strauss, Lévi. 1992 [1955] *Tristes Tropiques*. New York: Penguin Books

WEEK 2

Colonialism - September 6

Chapters from: Freyre, Gilberto. 1956 [1933] *The Masters and the Slaves [Casa Grande & Senzala]*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Chapters from: Mintz, Sidney. 1985. *Sweetness and Power*. New York: Penguin Books.

Slavery - September 8

Selected writings from Bartolomé de Las Casas

Few pages from Gilberto Freyre (op.cit)

Few pages from: Miers and Kopytoff (eds.) 1977 *Slavery in Africa: Historical and Anthropological Perspectives*. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.

Chapters from: Klein, Herbert. 1999. *The Atlantic Slave Trade*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

WEEK 3

Inventing the Nation I: *The White, the Black, and the Indian* - September 13 & 15

Revisit Gilberto Freyre from last week.

Garfield, Seth. 2004. "A Nationalist Environment: Indians, Nature, and the Construction of the Xingu National Park in Brazil." *Luso-Brazilian Review* 41 (1): 139–67.

Turner, Jimmy. 2014. "Uma Cultura Atrasada: The Luso-Baroque Manezinha, Hyper Whiteness, and the Modern Middle Classes in Florianópolis, Brazil." *Journal of Latin America and Caribbean Anthropology*

Dunn, Christopher, and Charles Perrone. 2001. "Tropicália, Counterculture, and the Diasporic Imagination in Brazil." In *Brazilian Popular Music and Globalization*. New York and London: Routledge.

Rosenberg, Fernando. 2006. "Macunaíma in the Mouth of the Cannibal." in *The Avant-Garde and Geopolitics in Latin America*. University of Pittsburgh Press.

WEEK 4

Inventing the Nation II: Carnaval, Sexuality and Racial Democracy - September 20 & 22

Chapter from: Da Matta, Roberto. 1991. *Carnivals, Rogues, and Heros: An Interpretation of the Brazilian Dilemma*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press.

Amar, Paul. 2013. "Operation Princess in Rio de Janeiro: Rescuing Sex Slaves, Challenging the Labor-Evangelical Alliance, and Defining the Sexual Politics." *The Security Archipelago: Human-Security States, Sexuality Politics, and the End of Neoliberalism*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Goldstein, Donna. 1999. "Interracial Sex and Racial Democracy in Brazil: Twin Concepts?" *American Anthropologist*.

WEEK 5

Indians - I - September 27

Movie about the Kayapo

Indians - II - September 29

Turner, Terence. 2002. "Representation, Politics, and Cultural Imagination in Indigenous Video: General Points and Kayapo Examples." In *Media Worlds: Anthropology on New Terrain*, Faye D. Ginsburg, Lila Abu-Lughod and Brian Larkin. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press.

Cunha, Manuela Carneiro da. 2009. "Culture" and Culture: *Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Rights*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

WEEK 6

Indians - III - October 4

Cunha, Manuela Carneiro da. 2009. *"Culture" and Culture: Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Rights*. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press.

Review for exam

MID TERM EXAM - October 6

WEEK 7

Race - October 11

Collins, John 2013. "Ruins, Redemptions, and Brazil's Imperial Exception" in *Imperial Debris*, Ann Laura Stoler (ed.). Durham: Duke University Press.

Sheriff, Robin. 2003. "Embracing Race: Deconstructing Mestiçagem in Rio de Janeiro." in *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 8 (1): 86-115.

Religions I - October 13

Geschiere, Peter. 2013. "Comparative Perspectives II: Candomblé de Bahia-Between Witchcraft and Religion" in *Witchcraft, Intimacy and Trust: Africa in Comparison*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Brazeal, Brian. 2003. "The Music of the Bahian Caboclos." *Anthropological Quarterly* 76 (4): 639-69.

WEEK 8

Religions II - October 18

Selka, Stephen. 2010. "Morality in the Religious Marketplace: Evangelical Christianity, Candomblé and the Struggle for Moral Distinctions in Brazil" in *American Ethnologist* 37 (2): 291-307.

Labate, Beatriz Caiuby. 2012. "Ayahuasca Religions in Acre: Cultural Heritage in the Brazilian Borderlands" in *Anthropology of Consciousness* 23 (1): 87-102

Pantoja, Mariana Ciavatta. 2014. "Kuntanawa: Ayahuasca, Ethnicity, and Culture" in *Ayahuasca Shamanism in the Amazon and Beyond*, Beatriz Caiuby Labate and Clancy Cavnar (eds). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

New Colonialisms - Operation Condor I - October 20

McSherry, J. Patrice. 2005. *Predatory States: Operation Condor and Covert War in Latin America*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (Forward, Preface, Chapter 1)

WEEK 9

Fall Break October 24 & 25

New Colonialisms - Operation Condor II - October 27

Chapters from: McSherry, J. Patrice. 2005. *Predatory States: Operation Condor and Covert War in Latin America*.

WEEK 10

Images of Nature and People - November 1 & 3

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1996. "Images of Nature and Society in Amazonian Ethnology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25: 179–200.

Chapters from: Hecht, Susanna, and Alexander Cockburn. 1990. *The Fate of the Forest: Developers, Destroyers, and Defenders of the Amazon*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Cunha, Manuela Carneiro, and Mauro Barbosa Almeida. 2000. "Indigenous People, Traditional People, and Conservation in the Amazon." *Daedalus* 129 (2): 315–38.

WEEK 11

Politics in the Amazon - November 8

Chapters from: Garfield, Seth. 2013. *In Search of the Amazon: Brazil, the United States, and the Nature of a Region*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Politics in the Amazon II - The story of Chico Mendes - November 10

Chapters from: Revkin, Andrew. 1990. *The Burning Season - The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest*. Washington, Covelo and London: Island Press.

Week 12

"New" commodities in the age of Neoliberalism I - November 15

Dent, Alex. 2012. "Piracy, Circulatory Legitimacy, and Neoliberal Subjectivity in Brazil." *Cultural Anthropology* 27 (1): 28–49.

Turner, Terry. Neoliberal Ecopolitics and Indigenous Peoples: The Kayapo, The Rainforest Harvest, and the Body Shop

"New" commodities in the age of Neoliberalism II - November 17

Almeida, Mauro Barbosa. 2002. "The Politics of Amazonian Conservation: The Struggle of Rubber Tappers." *Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 7 (1): 170–219.

Keck, Margaret E. 1995. "Social Equity and Environmental Politics in Brazil: Lessons from the Rubber Tappers of Acre." *Comparative Politics* 27 (4): 409–24.

WEEK 13

"New" commodities in the age of Neoliberalism III - November 22

Lohmann, Larry. 2009. "Neoliberalism and the Calculable World: The Rise of Carbon Trading." In *Upsetting the Offset: The Political Economy of Carbon Markets*. (Steffen Böhm & Siddhartha Dabhi eds.) London: MayFlyBooks.

Flores, Silva, and Volkmann. 2009. "Shall We Keep Our Eyes Cerrados?" in *Upsetting the Offset: The Political Economy of Carbon Markets*. (Steffen Böhm and Siddhartha Dabhi eds.) London: MayFlyBooks.

Thanksgiving - November 24

WEEK 14

PAPER DUE - December 1

Transnational Processes - December 1 & 6

Chapters from: Dávila, Jerry. 2010. *Hotel Trópico: Brazil and the Challenge of African Decolonization, 1950-1980*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Shankland, Alex, and Euclides Gonçalves. 2016. "Imagining Agricultural Development in South–South Cooperation: The Contestation and Transformation of ProSAVANA." *World Development* 81: 35–46.

WEEK 15

Transnational Processes - December 8

Social Thought & Commentary Collection: Protest in Brazil in AQ 87 (3) 2014

Texts by: Alex Dent & Rosana Pinheiro-Machado, James Holston, Anelise dos Santos Gutterres, John Collins and Gregory Duff Morton.

FINAL EXAM - TBD