

**Professor Donna Goldstein**

Anthropology 7010

Meeting: Wed. evenings at 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Title: The Anthropology of Latin America With an Emphasis on the Ethnographic Tradition

**Course Schedule:**

Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-8:30 p.m..

Office Hours: 1:30–3:00 Wednesdays and by appointment

Tel.: 492-5484

**Course Description/Rationale:**

This course will survey some of the major ethnographic and theoretical works that have framed our contemporary understanding of the peoples and cultures of Latin America, and will be split, not quite perfectly evenly between theory and ethnography, attempting to establish a historical, political economic, and cultural understanding of the anthropological intellectual lineage that emerges from this region.

Each week will address themes which could potentially be the central themes of entire courses in themselves, such as historical works that deal with colonial data, dependency theory, gender and development, etc. We will also discuss **some** of the key works of North American anthropologists who have framed our knowledge of the region, including Oscar Lewis, Sydney Mintz, and Nancy Scheper-Hughes. There are many others that I will advise you to read; the list is necessarily **incomplete** because of time constraints. I have tried to pick a balance of books between topical, thematic and geographic scope, all the time keeping in mind that each of these books merely opens up an entirely new bibliography on a topic, theme, or region. The class will be conducted as a graduate seminar. Active participation from students are expected.

**Required Packet and Books:**

One packets of articles will be placed in the graduate student lounge for you to copy during the first few weeks of class. Please make arrangements during this time to sign the packet out for a few hours and have the entire packet copied at your favorite copy place. Please be considerate and offer to make a packet for a fellow student or two so that everyone can be prepared early on in the class. Please be careful with the pages so that everyone can continue to use the automatic feeder.

Required books have been ordered and will be available at the CU bookstore.

**Course Requirements:**

**Readings and Class Discussion:** We will conduct the course as a weekly seminar. Therefore, all students are expected to have completed the assigned required readings prior to each class and be prepared to engage in class discussion. Participation in the discussions is an extremely important aspect of this course and necessary for its success. Be prepared with at least three reactions, comments, critiques and/or questions in response to the readings for each class. Regular attendance is expected of all students. This class is strictly limited to **15 students** and advanced graduate students in anthropology will be given preference.

**Presentations:** Students are expected to give **2** “formal” fifteen minutes to one half hour long presentations on one or more of the week’s readings over the course of the semester. You should organize your presentation on the assumption that everyone has already done the readings in question, and therefore you should spend no more than a few minutes summarizing the readings.

The bulk of your presentation should focus on addressing the key issues raised in the readings, the apparent agendas (theoretical and otherwise of its author(s)), your critiques of the reading (i.e., strengths, weaknesses, whether or not the argument, data, or analysis is convincing), and what significance the selection(s) has in the grand scheme of anthropological (or some other interesting disciplinary discourse) theory. Close your presentation by suggesting some aspects of the readings that you feel are interesting areas for further class discussion, particularly those aspects which you may not have had time to address during your presentation. Do a practice run of your presentation beforehand in order to make sure that you do not exceed the time limit.

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**Short Papers:** Every other week a “one-pager” discussing the week’s readings is required. The class will be divided into 2 groups at the beginning of the semester—A and B—and the grouping you choose determines when you write your one-pagers. Please stick as closely to this schedule as is possible and be on time with your short papers.

**Six one-page papers total** are due for each individual student. Please hand in **2 copies** at the end of class for the week of your one-pager (approximately 1 1/2 spacing and 11 point font). One copy will be returned to you and one will be kept on file. They are due every other week. They should be interesting and engaging and should explore one idea (but possibly more) from the readings in detail. A good way to think about these assignments is to imagine yourself as a book or article review writer, addressing both a broad intellectual audience as well as an anthropological audience. If you disagree with an author’s methods or conclusions, then explain why and give an alternative argument (and source) that explains your point. Try to be as thorough, precise, and as specific as possible. You can go over by one extra page, but it is not necessary. I expect them to have been proof-read.

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**Long Final Paper: One 10-page final paper** is due for the course. Your paper represents an opportunity for you to go beyond the course readings and discussions and to explore literature related to but not included in this syllabus.

I would like you to choose a topic—it can be a country, a thematic area, or a theoretical orientation—and put together a ten-page discussion that outlines the key authors and discourses in the field. Additionally, I would like you to put together a ten-page bibliography with 20 annotated (one paragraph or more) citations. Take this as an exercise that can lead you toward writing your own preliminary paper or prospectus. Hint: Usually, better papers take a smaller topic and focus on **one idea** in depth.

**Evaluation of Graduate Students:**

Participation in Class Discussions and Two Presentations.....	20%
Six One-Pagers (Due Every Other Week).....	30%
One Long Paper (10 pages double-spaced).....	40%
Ten-page Bibliography with 20 annotated citations.....	10%

**Note: Final Papers Due on November 29, 2000**  
**No Late Papers or Incompletes.**

**Note: By the end of the semester, each participant will have, at minimum:**

- **presented twice**  
**(a good strategy is to present the same week you have a one-pager due)**
- **written 6 one-pagers reflecting on readings**
- **written one 10-page paper reflecting on themes, geographical area, topical area of course**
- **Pulled together one 10-page bibliography with 20 annotated citations**

**Class Culture:**

I hope the organization of this class will encourage it to be more of a “salon” atmosphere where ideas are exchanged and differing perspectives are respected. I am hoping that the combination of good food, and a highly motivated group of participants (as presenters and as one-page writers) will help to make this seminar not only intellectually stimulating, but also a pleasant place to be. I ask that participants be courteous and respectful to others. In other words, I would like to stimulate intellectual exchange and the ability to discuss and disagree with one another and to understand that we can do this in a friendly, civilized, and respectful manner.

**Required Texts:**

- 1) The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico: 1517-1521: Bernal Díaz del Castillo, Conquistador. Cambridge: Da Capo Press.
- 2) Lewis, Oscar. 1959. Five Families. New York: Basic.
- 3) Mintz, Sydney. 1974 Worker in the Cane: A Puerto Rican Life History. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- 4) Galeano, Eduardo. 1973. Open Veins of Latin America. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- 5) Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1989. Death Without Weeping: Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 6) Cardoso, Fernando Henrique and Enzo Faletto. 1979[1971]. Dependency and Development in Latin America. Berkeley: University of California Press. (out of print-in reader)
- 7) Boccock, Robert. 1986. Hegemony. London and New York: Tavistock. (out of print—in reader)
- 8) Bourdieu, Pierre. Distinction. Harvard: Harvard University Press
- 9) Escobar, Arturo. 1995. Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- 10) Phillips, Lynne, ed. 1998. The Third Wave of Modernization in Latin America: Cultural Perspectives on Neo-Liberalism. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, Inc.
- 11) Portes, Alejandro, and Alex Stepick. 1993. City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami. Berkeley: University of California.
- 12) Ehlers, Tracy. Silent Looms: Women and Production in a Guatemalan Town. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- 13) Farmer, Paul. 1992. AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame. Berkeley: University of California.

**Week 1: August 30: Organizational Meeting: Sign-ups**

- 1-Sign up for Groups A and B
- 2-Sign up for Presentations
- 3-Sign up for Cooking and Cleaning

**Dinner and Clean-up Week 1: Donna (main cook) and Caroline Conzelman (helper)**

**Week 2: September 6: A Taste for Historical Documents**

The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico: 1517-1521: Bernal Díaz del Castillo, Conquistador. Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 1996.

### **Week 3: September 13: Overview of the Region/Classic of Journalistic Writing**

Galeano, Eduardo. 1973. Open Veins of Latin America. New York: Monthly Review Press.

### **Week 4: September 20: Oscar Lewis and the Culture of Poverty Arguments**

Lewis, Oscar. 1959. Five Families. New York: Basic.

Lewis, O. 1949. "An Anthropological Approach to Family Studies," American Journal of Sociology.

Lewis, O. 1966. "The Culture of Poverty," reprinted from La Vida: A Puerto Rican Family in the Culture of Poverty: San Juan and New York. New York: Vintage Books. (also in Scientific American 1966)

Leeds, Anthony. 1971. "The Concept of the "Culture of Poverty: Conceptual, Logical, and Empirical Problems, with Perspectives From Brazil and Peru." In: Eleanor Leacock, ed. The Culture of Poverty: A Critique. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Harvey, David L. and Michael Reed. 1996. "The Culture of Poverty: An Ideological Analysis." Sociological Perspectives 39:4:465-495.

### **Week 5: September 27: The Early Work of Sydney Mintz**

Mintz, S. 1974. "The Rural Proletariat and the Problem of Rural Proletarian Consciousness." Journal of Peasant Studies 1:3:291-325.

Mintz, Sydney. Worker in the Cane: A Puerto Rican Life History. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. 1974.

### **Week 6: No Class/October Break**

**Please Use this Week to Read Ahead to Week 7**

### **Week 7: October 11: The Classic Manifesto of Dependency Theory, Dependent Development, and World Systems Theory**

Frank, A.G. 1967. Capitalism and Underdevelopment in Latin America. New York: Monthly Review Press. Pp. 145-218 and pp. 2181-318.

Cardoso, Fernando Henrique and Enzo Faletto. 1979[1971]. Dependency and Development in Latin America. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. vii to 28 and pp. 172-216.

Wallerstein, I. 1979. The capitalist world-economy: essays. Cambridge and New York : Cambridge University Press. Pp. vii-xii and pp. 1-152.

**Week 8: October 18: Guatemala, Development, and Gender**

Ehlers, Tracy. 2000 [1990]. Silent Looms: Women and Production in a Guatemalan Town. Austin: University of Texas Press.

**Week 9: October 25: Foucault, Discourse, and Development**

Escobar, Arturo. 1995. Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Suggested:

Escobar, A. 1999. "After Nature: Steps to an Antiessentialist Political Ecology." Current Anthropology 40:1:1-27.

**Week 10 November 1: How to Understand Class and Domination**

Bourdieu, P. 1984. Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste. Cambridge Massachusetts: Harvard University Press. pp. xi-225.

**Week 11: November 8: AIDS, Medical Anthropology, Haiti**

Farmer, Paul. 1992. AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame. Berkeley: University of California.

**Week 12: November 15: No Class/Anthropology Meetings in San Francisco**

**Work on Final Papers**

**Week 13: November 22: Neo-Liberalism in Latin America (to be moved to another date)**

Phillips, Lynne, ed. 1998. The Third Wave of Modernization in Latin America: Cultural Perspectives on Neo-Liberalism. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, Inc. Introduction, "Economic Development and the Origins of the Bolivian Cocaine Industry" (Painter), "Eco-Imperialism? Environmental Policy versus Everyday Practice in Mexico" (Gates), Conclusions.

Tokman, Victor and Guillermo O'Donnell, eds. 1998. Poverty and Inequality in Latin America: Issues and New Challenges. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press. Preface, Introduction, "Inequality, Employment and Poverty in Latin America" (Oscar Altimir), "The Demographics of Poverty and Welfare in Latin America" (José

Alberto Magno de Carvalho), “Poverty and Inequality in Latin America” (Guillermo O’Donnell), “Globalization and Job Creation” (René Cortazar).

### **Final Papers Due After Thanksgiving**

#### **Week 14: November 29: The Concept of Hegemony, Gramsci, and the Wonderful Bocoock**

#### **Final Papers are Due November 29**

Gramsci, A. 1972[1947] Prison Notebooks. (Selections in Reader)  
Bocoock, Robert. 1986. Hegemony. London and New York: Tavistock.

#### **Week 15: December 6: Contemporary Ethnography of Rural Brazil**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. Death Without Weeping: Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989. (Entire Book)

#### **Week 16: December 13: Latin America in the United States: Miami**

Portes, Alejandro, and Alex Stepick. 1993. City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami. Berkeley: University of California.

**Note:** Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class.

**Final Papers and Bibliographies are Due on November 29, 2000, just after the Thanksgiving break.**