

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York  
Center for Ethnic Studies and Social Science Department

Peoples & Cultures of Latin America & the Caribbean	Class Hours: Wed, 10:30AM - 1:15PM Room: FH 204
ANT 200/ LAT 200 - Section 001	3 Credits/ 3 Hours
Instructor: Prof. Mila Burns Office: S 623c Email: mburnsnascimento@bmcc.cuny.edu	Office Hours: Wed, 9:00AM – 10:20AM or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course surveys the diversity of Latin America as a complex combination of diverse peoples and cultures with an increasing presence in the United States. The course examines the settlement of indigenous societies before European arrival, and the impact of conquest and colonization in the shaping of multicultural societies. Students will debate how such experience can be used as a framework to understand the current dynamics with Latin America, the United States, and Europe since then. The course will place particular emphasis on the discussion of ethnicity, race, and gender in the analysis of the swiping inequalities that affect most of these societies today. The readings illustrate case studies that examine a wide range of topics – from ecology to food production, kinship and marriage, medical and religious beliefs, and artistic expressions. Urbanization, the economy, and the history of important political movements in the continent are also instrumental on the understanding of current societies. Furthermore, the course explores ways in which intense migration and trans nationalism have generated new notions of Latin American and Latino identity in the United States today.

Basic Skills: ENG 095, ENG 088, ESL 062, ACR 094

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Course Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)	Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)
1. Develop knowledge and awareness of the historical, cultural, and geographic diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean.	1. Students will read and write assignments on these historical, cultural and geographic processes.
2. Learn to discuss and evaluate the historical processes that explain the current dynamics of these societies within the region, with the US, Europe, and the rest of the world.	2. Students will study historical processes and debate them in class and in weekly blog postings.
3. Use critically the concept of 'core area' and area studies.	3. Students will identify core areas of the world and criteria to classify societies into these areas.

4. Identify common elements of societies in this region as well as differences among each other.	4. Students will use maps and take quizzes to develop a clear understanding of these elements.
5. Compare and contrast historical and social processes in this region versus other areas of the world.	5. Class discussion and written assignments.

General Education Goals that will be covered and assessed in this course:	Measurements
Communication Skills	Students will write, read, listen and respond to the information presented in class. In their written and oral assignments students will be required to apply critical thinking skills constantly.
Social and Behavioral Sciences	Through the reading and comprehension of class material, students will become familiar with the major cultural, social and historical processes that define this geographic and political region of the world. Written evaluations will measure this new knowledge.

#### College Attendance Policy:

The maximum number of absence hours is limited to one more class hour than the contact hours as indicated in the BMCC college catalog. For example, you may be enrolled in a four-hour class that meets four times a week. You are allowed five hours of absence, not five days. In the case of excessive absence, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an "F" or "WU" grade.

#### Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. (Phone 220-8180, Room N-326)

#### BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (available online).

COURSE TEXTBOOK AND READINGS: Please buy the following required book:

Peter Winn, *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*. University of California Press, 1999 [ISBN# 9780520221818]. This is the main textbook, used in every class.

George Orwell, *Animal Farm*, 1944.

SUGGESTED ETHNOGRAPHIES:

Catherine Allen. *The Hold Life Has. Coca and Cultural Identity in an Andean Community*. Smithsonian, 2002. [978-1588340320]

Miguel Barnet, Esteban Montejo. *Biography of a Runaway Slave*. Curbstone Press, 1994, [978-1880684184].

Philip Bourgois. *In Search of Respect. Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge, 2002 [978-0521017114].

Andrew Canessa. *Intimate Indigeneities. Race, Sex, and History in the Small Spaces of Andean Life*. Duke University Press, 2012.

Paul Farmer. *Aids and Accusation. Haiti and the Geography of blame*. U. California Press 2006, [978-0520248397].

George Gmelch & S. Gmelch. *The Parish Behind God's Back. The Changing Culture of Rural Barbados. Waveland*. Waveland 2012, [978-1577667759].

Olga Gonzalez. *Unveiling Secrets of War in the Peruvian Andes*. U. of Chicago Press, 2011. [978-0226302713]

Janet Lever. *Soccer Madness. Brazil's Passion for the World's Most Popular Sport*. Waveland, 1983, [978-0881338430].

Keith McNeal. *Trance and Modernity in the Southern Caribbean. African and Hindu Popular Religions in Trinidad and Tobago*. University Press of Florida, 2011 [978-0813037363]

Valentina Napolitano. *Migration, Mujercitas, and Medicine Men. Life in Urban Mexico*. U. California, 2002.

Peter Wade. *Music, Race and Nation*. U. of Chicago Press, 2000. [978-0226868455]

Mary Weismantel. *Food, Gender, and Poverty in the Ecuadorean Andes*. Waveland, 1988, [978-1577660293].

Daniel Wilkinson. *Silence on the Mountain. Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala*. Duke U Press, 2004 [979-0822333684].

Note: Other readings will be available on the blog, Blackboard and/or on Electronic Reserves (in the library web site).

GRADING POLICY: Evaluation & Requirements of Students

Attendance and Participation	15%
Blog	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

BLOG: All students are required to write a post (300 - 400 words) about the assignments every week. It should be posted by Tuesday, 5pm (the day before the class in which the content will be discussed) at the website <https://lat200bmccspring2015.wordpress.com>. Find the date of the assignment, click on "Leave a comment," write your post, your email and name, and send it.

MIDTERM EXAM: All students will be required to do a midterm exam. It will take place on March 18, during class. There are no make-up exams and no exceptions will be made.

PAPER: All students will be required to write a 3-5 pages paper. The paper should use an interpretation of how George Orwell's *Animal Farm* relates to an event of Latin American history discussed in class (the student should discuss the event with the professor). The paper is due on April 15. Besides bringing a hard copy on the due date, you must submit the paper on turnitin.com before the class starts. Failure to accomplish one of the requirements will result in failing the paper.

FINAL EXAM: All students will be required to do a final exam. It will take place on May 20, during class. There are no make-up exams and no exceptions will be made. The content of the final exam *does not* include the content of the midterm exam.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

Week # / Topic	Date	Assignments
1. Introduction: Anthropology, Latin America, and the Caribbean	January 28	
2. Ideas, Spaces, and Places in Latin America and the Caribbean	February 4	Winn Ch 1 José Martí, <i>Our America</i> (ER*)
3. Society and Culture Before the Europeans	February 11	Shawn William Miller, <i>An Environmental History of Latin America</i> , Chapter 1 + pp. 77-87 + pp. 105-112 (ER)  Visit Museum of Natural History or Met
	February 18	NO CLASS (Monday Schedule)
4. Conquest, Colonialism and Resistance	February 25	Winn Ch 2 Alfred W. Crosby, <i>Ecological Imperialism: The Overseas Migration of Western Europeans as a Biological Phenomenon</i> (ER)
5. Independence and National Identity	March 4	Winn Ch 3 Pamela Voekel, <i>Peeing on the Palace: Bodily Resistance to Bourbon Reforms in Mexico City</i> (ER)
6. Cultural Politics of Race and Ethnicity	March 11	Winn Ch 8 Barbara Jeanne Fields, <i>Slavery, Race and Ideology in the United States</i> (ER)
7. Cultural Constructions of Gender and Sexuality	March 18	MIDTERM EXAM  Winn Ch 9 Ruth Bear, <i>Sex and Sin, Witchcraft and the Devil in Late Colonial Mexico</i> (ER)
8. Religion and Everyday Life	March 25	Winn Ch 10 June Nash, <i>Devils, Witches, and Sudden Death</i> (ER)
9. Populism and Natural Disasters	April 1	The Economist – <i>The Return of Populism</i> (ER) Cheryl E. Martin and Mark Wasserman, <i>Readings on Latin America and its People – Volume 1</i> , chapter 10 (ER) Mark Alan Healey, <i>The Fragility of the Moment: Politics and Class in the Aftermath of the 1944 Argentine Earthquake</i> (ER)

	April 8	NO CLASS (Spring break)
10. Violence, Memory, and Striving for a Just World	April 15	PAPER IS DUE  Winn Ch 5
11. U.S. in Latin America	April 22	Winn Ch 13 Huffington Post - <i>19 Reasons Latin Americans Come to the U.S. that have nothing to do with the American Dream</i>
12. Modernization and Globalization	April 29	Winn Ch 6 Time Magazine – <i>Not Legal Not Leaving</i> (ER)
13. Latinos (as) in the U.S.	May 6	Winn Ch 14
14. Manifestations of Popular Culture	May 13	Winn Ch 11 Eduardo P. Archetti, <i>The Meaning of Sport in Anthropology: A View from Latin America</i> (ER)
	May 20	FINAL EXAM

\*Electronic Resources will be available on the blog.