Anthropology of Latin America – Sample 10 week syllabus

Required Reading:


Additional articles available via the University’s library

**Week 1: Introducing Latin America: Representations and Realities**
- Ben Penglase, *Living with Insecurity in a Brazilian Favela*, read Chapter 1: “To Live Here You Have to Know How to Live.”

**Week 2: The anthropological enterprise: ethnography in Latin America**

**Week 3: Colonial and historical legacies**

**Week 4: Economic systems, trade and power relations**
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Chapter 3: A Familiar Hillside and Dangerous Intimates

**Week 5: Religion and worldview**

**Week 6: Poverty and inequality**
- Oscar Lewis, “The Culture of Poverty,” in Heath
- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, “Death without Weeping” and Jody Glittenberg, “Empty Breasts and Empty Fields” in Heath

**Week 7: Kinship and gender**
- Catherine Boyle, “Touching Air: The Cultural Force of Women in Chile” and María del Carmen Feijoo and Mónica Gogna, “Women in the Transition to Democracy” in Heath
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Chapter 4, Tubarão and Seu Lázaro’s Dog

**Week 8: Race, ethnicity and identity**

**Week 9: Activism and social movements**
- Beth Conklin, “Body Paint, Feathers and VCRs: … Amazonian Activism” and George Collier, “Restructuring Ethnicity in Chiapas” in Heath
- Film: excerpts from “Favela Rising”

**Week 10: Globalization and place: learning from Latin Americans**
- Joseph Bastien, “The Healing Touch of Love” and Abigail Adams, “Gringas, Ghouls and Guatemala” in Heath
- Penglase, *Living with Insecurity*, Conclusion: “It Was Here That Estella was Shot”