Anthropology of Latin America
COURSE HANDBOOK
2015-16

Semester 2
Lectures: Fridays, 1110-1300
Seminar Room 4, Chrysal MacMillan Building
Tutorials: Group 1 Tuesdays, 1000-1050 (LG.08, David Hume Tower)
Group 2 Tuesday, 1310-1400 (Seminar Room 4, Chrysal MacMillan Building)

Anthropologists working in Latin America have been at the forefront of the discipline’s theorization of racial and economic inequality, the culture of politics, and urban life. Latin America has also been a site for major studies of social change, including civil war, migration, and economic globalization. This course will provide you with an introduction to the major themes and debates in the anthropology of Latin America. Through a close reading and discussion of ethnographic works, films, music, and other media, students in the course will become familiar with the breadth of languages, religions, political formations, and cultural systems of the area. Particular attention will be paid to recent interests among anthropologists in urban life, violence, religious syncretism, environmental politics, sexuality, and social movements.

Course Lecturers
Dr Alex Nading (alex.nading@ed.ac.uk)
4.10 Chrysal MacMillan Building
Guidance and Feedback Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 pm

Dr Maya Mayblin (maya.mayblin@ed.ac.uk)
5.06 Chrysal MacMillan Building
Guidance and Feedback Hours:

Course Secretary
Lizzie Robertson (sps-team2@mlist.is.ed.ac.uk)
Undergraduate Teaching Office, Ground Floor, Chrysal MacMillan Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Assessment weighting</th>
<th>Submission Date (all course work is due at 12 noon on the date of submission)</th>
<th>Return of Feedback date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Thursday 18th February</td>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Monday 4th April</td>
<td>Monday 25th April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All course work is submitted electronically through ELMA. Please read the School Policies and Coursework Submission Procedures document for important information on submission procedures and assessment policies.
Handbook Contents

1. Aims and Learning Outcomes
2. Lectures and Seminars
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1. Aims, Learning Outcomes and Learning Resources

AIMS

This course will provide you with a working knowledge of the major debates and key works in the anthropology of Latin America, with a particular focus on the past 20 to 30 years. A particular aim of the course is to provide you with an understanding of the different ways in which life in the region has been “mediated” through literature, food, film, music, and other kinds of cultural productions. It will also offer a geographically focused examination of race, indigenous identity, violence, sexuality, religion, and urbanization.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand Latin America’s place in the global economy from a socio-cultural perspective.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate films, music, and other kinds of media using the tools of social theory
3. Have an advanced understanding of the dynamics of religious conversion and syncretism.
4. Analyse violence as a structural, symbolic, and everyday phenomenon
5. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the dynamics of sexuality and politics in Latin America

2. Lectures and Seminar

LECTURE

This course is taught through one 110 minute lecture every week, held in Seminar Room 4, CMB.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials provide an opportunity for you to discuss your own ideas and your reaction to the
readings and lectures. In tutorials, the lecturers will also assist you in the organisation of your essays.

Each tutorial consists of 10-12 students. Tutorials meet weekly, starting in the second week of the course.

*Preparing for Tutorials*

The readings listed under each lecture include a few key readings and a group of supplementary readings.

The supplementary readings will be touched on in the lecture and will be especially useful in writing essays.

The minimum expectation is that all students will read the key readings before the lecture in which the reading will be discussed.

To prepare for tutorials, you must not only complete the key readings but also prepare a one-paragraph personal response to the readings. Your personal response should highlight what you see as the key argument, the most troubling or interesting points, and a question or two for group discussion.

**GUIDE TO USING LEARN FOR ONLINE TUTORIAL SIGN-UP**

The following is a guide to using LEARN to sign up for your tutorial. If you have any problems using the LEARN sign up, please contact the course secretary by email *(lizzie.robertson@ed.ac.uk)*

Tutorial sign up will open on Monday 11th January and will close at 12 noon on the Friday of Week 1 (15th January).

**Step 1 – Accessing LEARN course pages**
Access to LEARN is through the MyEd Portal. You will be given a log-in and password during Freshers’ Week. Once you are logged into MyEd, you should see a tab called ‘Courses’ which will list the active LEARN pages for your courses under ‘myLEARN’.

**Step 2 – Welcome to LEARN**
Once you have clicked on the relevant course from the list, you will see the Course Content page. There will be icons for the different resources available, including one called ‘Tutorial Sign Up’. Please take note of any instructions there.

**Step 3 – Signing up for your tutorial**
Clicking on Tutorial Sign Up will take you to the sign up page where all the available tutorial groups are listed along with the running time and location.
Once you have selected the group you would like to attend, click on the ‘Sign up’ button. A confirmation screen will display.
IMPORTANT: If you change your mind after having chosen a tutorial you cannot go back and change it and you will need to email the course secretary. Reassignments once tutorials are full or after the sign-up period has closed will only be made in exceptional circumstances. Tutorials have restricted numbers and it is important to sign up as soon as possible. The tutorial sign up will only be available until 12 noon on the Friday of Week 1 (15th January) so that everyone is registered to a group ahead of tutorials commencing in Week 2. If you have not yet signed up for a tutorial by this time you will be automatically assigned to a group which you will be expected to attend.

ACCESS TO READINGS

All book chapters should be available in e-reserve and journal articles are also all available through e-journals. A few of the readings for the course also make use of online archives that provide access to works that are out of copyright.

The course reference list is now available through Resource Lists @ Edinburgh, using Talis Aspire. This can be accessed here or via a link that is available on the LEARN page for the course.

The reference list includes links to the online resources.

Do browse through the books and periodicals in the Main Library in George Square (mainly GN or .572, 4th floor), and especially through current, still unbound periodicals (1st Floor Reading Room).

Where possible refer to the electronic journal versions, and browse electronically – see the web guide and ejournals list.

LEARNING RESOURCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The Study Development Team at the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) provides resources and workshops aimed at helping all students to enhance their learning skills and develop effective study techniques. Resources and workshops cover a range of topics, such as managing your own learning, reading, note making, essay and report writing, exam preparation and exam techniques.

The study development resources are housed on 'LearnBetter' (undergraduate), part of Learn, the University's virtual learning environment. Follow the link from the IAD Study Development web page to enrol: www.ed.ac.uk/iad/undergraduates

Workshops are interactive: they will give you the chance to take part in activities, have discussions, exchange strategies, share ideas and ask questions. They are 90 minutes long and held on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm or 3.30pm. The schedule is available from the IAD Undergraduate web page (see above).

Workshops are open to all undergraduates but you need to book in advance, using the MyEd booking system. Each workshop opens for booking 2 weeks before the date of the
workshop itself. If you book and then cannot attend, please cancel in advance through MyEd so that another student can have your place. (To be fair to all students, anyone who persistently books on workshops and fails to attend may be barred from signing up for future events).

Study Development Advisors are also available for an individual consultation if you have specific questions about your own approach to studying, working more effectively, strategies for improving your learning and your academic work. Please note, however, that Study Development Advisors are not subject specialists so they cannot comment on the content of your work. They also do not check or proof read students' work.

To make an appointment with a Study Development Advisor, email iad.study@ed.ac.uk

(For support with English Language, you should contact the English Language Teaching Centre).

DISCUSSING SENSITIVE TOPICS

The discipline of Anthropology of Latin America addresses a number of topics that some might find sensitive or, in some cases, distressing. You should read this Course Guide carefully and if there are any topics that you may feel distressed by you should seek advice from the course convenor and/or your Personal Tutor.

For more general issues you may consider seeking the advice of the Student Counselling Service, http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling

3. Assessment

The Degree Examination mark for the course will be based on a combination of:

1) 20% Essay 1: Short written assignment (book review or commentary) 1000 words
2) 80% Essay 2: Long written assignment (choice of essay questions) 4000 words

ASSIGNMENTS

Essay 1, 1000 words:
What does ethnographic research reveal about life in contemporary Latin America? Address this question in relation to the work of one book length work from the list at the end of this handbook.

Essay 2, 4000 words:
Questions to guide your approach to Essay 2 will be posted to Learn around week 6 of the course.

DEADLINES
You are required to submit your written work no later than the dates below:

**Essay 1**, due 12.00 noon on **Thursday 18 February 2016**. Feedback will be available by **10 March 2016**.

**Essay 2**, due 12.00 noon on **Monday 4 April 2016**. Feedback will be available by **25 April 2016**

In addition, you will have opportunities for feedback through non-assessed exercises in essay planning that are reviewed by you and your peers during tutorial time.

**ELMA: SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF COURSEWORK**

Coursework is submitted online using our electronic submission system, ELMA. You will not be required to submit a paper copy of your work.

Marked coursework, grades and feedback will be returned to you via ELMA. You will not receive a paper copy of your marked coursework or feedback.

For information, help and advice on submitting coursework and accessing feedback, please see the ELMA wiki at [https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SPSITWiki/ELMA](https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SPSITWiki/ELMA). Further detailed guidance on the essay deadline and a link to the wiki and submission page will be available on the course Learn page. The wiki is the primary source of information on how to submit your work correctly and provides advice on approved file formats, uploading cover sheets and how to name your files correctly.

When you submit your work electronically, you will be asked to tick a box confirming that your work complies with university regulations on plagiarism. This confirms that the work you have submitted is your own.

Occasionally, there can be technical problems with a submission. We request that you monitor your university student email account in the 48 hours following the deadline for submitting your work. If there are any problems with your submission the course secretary will email you at this stage. We undertake to return all coursework within 15 working days of submission. This time is needed for marking, moderation, second marking and input of results. If there are any unanticipated delays, it is the course organiser’s responsibility to inform you of the reasons.

All our coursework is assessed anonymously to ensure fairness: to facilitate this process put your Examination number (on your student card), not your name or student number, on your coursework or cover sheet.

**IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS**
To ensure your course work is submitted successfully, students should aim to upload their submissions at least 1 hour before the deadline. Students are responsible for ensuring they have sufficient internet access and connection to submit their course work electronically. Technical difficulties and poor internet connection are not acceptable reasons for submitting work late. You should monitor your university student email account in the 24 hours following the deadline for submitting your work. If there are any problems with your submission the course secretary will email you at this stage.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Occasionally, there can be technical problems with a submission. We request that you monitor your university student email account in the 24 hours following the deadline for submitting your work. If there are any problems with your submission the course secretary will email you at this stage.

ANONYMITY

All our coursework is assessed anonymously to ensure fairness: to facilitate this process put your Examination number (on your student card), not your name or student number, on your coursework or cover sheet.

WORD COUNT PENALTIES

Your short essay should be 1000 words (excluding bibliography). Essays above 1000 words will be penalised using the Ordinary level criterion of 1 mark for every 20 words over length: anything between 1001 and 1020 words will lose one mark, between 1021 and 1040 two marks, and so on.

Your long essay should be 4000 words (excluding bibliography). Essays above 4000 words will be penalised using the Ordinary level criterion of 1 mark for every 20 words over length: anything between 4001 and 4020 words will lose one mark, between 4021 and 4040 two marks, and so on.

You will not be penalised for submitting work below the word limit. However, you should note that shorter essays are unlikely to achieve the required depth and that this will be reflected in your mark.

LATE SUBMISSIONS AND PENALTIES

Unlike in Years 1 and 2, NO EXTENSIONS ARE GRANTED WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR ANY ASSESSED WORK AT HONOURS LEVEL.

Managing deadlines is a basic life-skill that you are expected to have acquired by the time you reach Honours. Timely submission of all assessed items (coursework, essays, project reports, etc.) is a vitally important responsibility at this stage in your university career.
Unexcused lateness can put at risk your prospects of proceeding to Senior Honours and can damage your final degree grade.

If you miss the submission deadline for any piece of assessed work 5 marks will be deducted for each calendar day that work is late, up to a maximum of five calendar days (25 marks). Thereafter, a mark of zero will be recorded. There is no grace period for lateness and penalties begin to apply immediately following the deadline. For example, if the deadline is Tuesday at 12 noon, work submitted on Tuesday at any time after 12 noon will be marked as one day late, work submitted at any time after 12 noon on Wednesday will be marked as two days late, and so on.

Failure to submit an item of assessed work will result in a mark of zero, with potentially very serious consequences for your overall degree class, or no degree at all. It is therefore always in your interest to submit work, even if very late.

**Please be aware that all work submitted is returned to students with a provisional mark and without applicable penalties in the first instance. The mark you receive on ELMA is therefore subject to change following the consideration of the Lateness Penalty Waiver Panel (please see below for further information) and the Board of Examiners.**

**How to Submit a Lateness Penalty Waiver Form**

If there are extenuating circumstances beyond your control which make it essential for you to submit work after the deadline you must fill in a ‘Lateness Penalty Waiver’ (LPW) form to state the reason for your lateness. This is a request for any applicable penalties to be removed and will be considered by the Lateness Penalty Waiver Panel.

Before submitting an LPW, please consider carefully whether your circumstances are (or were) significant enough to justify the lateness. Such circumstances should be serious and exceptional (e.g. not a common cold or a heavy workload). Computer failures are not regarded as justifiable reason for late submission. You are expected to regularly back-up your work and allow sufficient time for uploading it to ELMA.

You should submit the LPW form and supply an expected date of submission as soon as you are able to do so, and preferably before the deadline. Depending on the circumstances, supporting documentation may be required, so please be prepared to provide this where possible.

LPW forms can be found in a folder outside your SSO’s office, on online at:

[http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/undergrad/on_course_students/assessment_and_regulations/coursework_requirements/coursework_requirements_honours](http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/undergrad/on_course_students/assessment_and_regulations/coursework_requirements/coursework_requirements_honours)

Forms should be returned by email or, if possible, in person to your SSO. They will sign the form to indicate receipt and will be able to advise you if you would like further guidance or support.
Please Note: Signing the LPW form by either your SSO or Personal Tutor only indicates acknowledgment of the request, not the waiving of lateness penalties. Final decisions on all marks rest with Examination Boards.

There is a dedicated SSO for students in each subject area in SPS. To find out who your SSO is, and how to contact them, please find your home subject area on the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Name of SSO</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Alex Solomon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alex.Solomon@ed.ac.uk">Alex.Solomon@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 4253</td>
<td>Room 1.05, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Rebecca Shade</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecca.shade@ed.ac.uk">rebecca.shade@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 651 3896</td>
<td>Room 1.05, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Anthropology</td>
<td>Vanessa Feldberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vanessa.feldberg@ed.ac.uk">vanessa.feldberg@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3933</td>
<td>Room 1.04, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Louise Angus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:L.Angus@ed.ac.uk">L.Angus@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3923</td>
<td>Room 1.08, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Jane Marshall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jane.marshall@ed.ac.uk">jane.marshall@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3912</td>
<td>Room 1.07, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Karen Dargo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Karen.Dargo@ed.ac.uk">Karen.Dargo@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 651 1306</td>
<td>Room 1.03, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Sue Renton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sue.renton@ed.ac.uk">sue.renton@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 6958</td>
<td>Room 1.09, Chrystal MacMillan Building</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you are a student from another School, you should submit your LPW to the SSO for the subject area of the course, Vanessa Feldberg.

**MARKING AND RETURN OF MARKED WORK**

Essays will be marked by the course lecturers.

We undertake to return all coursework within 15 working days of submission. This time is needed for marking, moderation, second marking and input of results. If there are any unanticipated delays, it is the course organiser’s responsibility to inform you of the reasons.
PLAGIARISM GUIDANCE

Avoiding Plagiarism:
Material you submit for assessment, such as your essays, must be your own work. You can, and should, draw upon published work, ideas from lectures and class discussions, and (if appropriate) even upon discussions with other students, but you must always make clear that you are doing so. **Passing off anyone else’s work** (including another student’s work or material from the Web or a published author) **as your own is plagiarism** and will be punished severely. When you upload your work to ELMA you will be asked to check a box to confirm the work is your own. All submissions will be run through ‘Turnitin’, our plagiarism detection software. Turnitin compares every essay against a constantly-updated database, which highlights all plagiarised work. Assessed work that contains plagiarised material will be awarded a mark of zero, and serious cases of plagiarism will also be reported to the College Academic Misconduct officer. In either case, the actions taken will be noted permanently on the student’s record. **For further details on plagiarism see the Academic Services’ website:**

http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/discipline/plagiarism

DATA PROTECTION GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

In most circumstances, students are responsible for ensuring that their work with information about living, identifiable individuals complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The document, **Personal Data Processed by Students**, provides an explanation of why this is the case. It can be found, with advice on data protection compliance and ethical best practice in the handling of information about living, identifiable individuals, on the Records Management section of the University website at:

http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/records-management-section/data-protection/guidance-policies/dpforstudents

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The School welcomes disabled students with disabilities (including those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) and is working to make all its courses as accessible as possible. If you have a disability special needs which means that you may require adjustments to be made to ensure access to lectures, tutorials or exams, or any other aspect of your studies, you can discuss these with your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor who will advise on the appropriate procedures.

You can also contact the Student Disability Service, based on the University of Edinburgh, Third Floor, Main Library, You can find their details as well as information on all of the support they can offer at: [http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service)
DISCUSSING SENSITIVE TOPICS

The discipline of Social Anthropology addresses a number of topics that some might find sensitive or, in some cases, distressing. You should read this Course Guide carefully and if there are any topics that you may feel distressed by you should seek advice from the course convenor and/or your Personal Tutor.

For more general issues you may consider seeking the advice of the Student Counselling Service, http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling

REFERENCING AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

References and bibliography should follow the author-date system. For example, in the body of an essay:

- Single author’s quotation or idea referred to: (Smith 1989: 213)
- Two authors, more than one page: (Johnson & Margolin 1990: 245 - 247)
- Several authors: (Kennedy et al. 1994: 156)
- Citation of another author’s work in a secondary text: (Baxter 1982 cited in Comaroff 1988: 16)

In your bibliography follow these guidelines:

For a book by one author:


For two authors, a chapter in a book:


For a journal article

Simpson, B. 1994 'Bringing the "unclear" family into focus: divorce and re-marriage in contemporary Britain' Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute 29: 831-851.

Long quotations (more than 4 lines) should be indented with no quotation marks; shorter quotations should be incorporated in the main text with single quotation marks. Author’s name, etc., should appear at end of quote before the full stop.

For more information on the format of citations and bibliographic entries see: http://www.citethemrightonline.com/#

Note: Registration for examinations is handled automatically by the University’s student record system. You are, however, responsible for checking that the details against your own name are correct. You should do this via the Edinburgh Student Portal around the third or
fourth week of semester 1 and advise your Student Support Officer if there are any discrepancies.

4. Communications

If you have any problems, they should be taken first of all to the course organizer, Dr Alex Nading. Messages for the organizer can be sent through email.

More serious personal problems are best dealt with by your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor, who will let us know, for example, if you have been ill or, for some other serious reason, unable to keep up with the work for part of the course.

FEEDBACK

At the end of the course, we ask all students to fill in a questionnaire about the various lecture blocks and other aspects of the course. We do hope you will take note of what you like and dislike as the course progresses, and that you then take the time to share your experience with us. We do our best to include your constructive suggestions into the program for subsequent years.

5. Timetable, Course Outline and Readings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 January</td>
<td>Politics and Social Movements</td>
<td>Alex Nading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 January</td>
<td>Security and Violence</td>
<td>Alex Nading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>The City</td>
<td>Alex Nading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>Alex Nading</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 February</td>
<td>Sexual Economies</td>
<td>Maya Mayblin</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 February</td>
<td>Beauty and Body Image</td>
<td>Maya Mayblin</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Syncretic Essences</td>
<td>Maya Mayblin</td>
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<td>11 March</td>
<td>Indigenous Issues</td>
<td>Maya Mayblin</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Latin America and the USA</td>
<td>Alex Nading</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Mediation</td>
<td>Maya Mayblin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Revision Lecture</td>
<td>AN and MM</td>
</tr>
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</table>

COURSE OUTLINE
Lecture 1 (11/1): Politics and Social Movements (AN). Latin American anthropology is distinguished by its attention to the breadth of women’s, environmental, and indigenous movements that go beyond normal class or party politics. This lecture will introduce some of these, as well as theoretical tools for exploring the “cultures of politics” in an era in which states, NGOs, and social movements all exert different kinds of normative power.


Lecture 2 (18/1): Security and Violence (AN). Latin America is popularly known as a region of great political volatility. This lecture will consider theories about the varieties of forms that violence can take, and how anthropological inquiry informs theories of violence, conflict, and conciliation.


**Lecture 3 (25/1): The City (AN).** This lecture will explore how anthropologists study urbanization in Latin America. Urban ethnographies will introduce students to the ways in which anthropology theorises citizenship, segregation, risk, and economic precarity.


Lecture 4 (1/2): Race and Ethnicity (AN). This lecture will consider the social and cultural construction of racial categories in Latin America. Drawing on examples from multiethnic societies, particularly those of the Andes, the lecture will use historical and ethnographic material to help students grasp the ways in which these general concepts (race and ethnicity) come to be embodied in Latin America.


This lecture will explore manifestations of sex, gender and sexuality across the region, and trace some debates concerning Latin America as a hyper-sexualised continent, and favourite destination for sex tourism.


**15 -19 FEBRUARY, INNOVATIVE LEARNING WEEK, NO LECTURES**

**Lecture 6 (22/2): Beauty and Body Image (MM)**

Following on from last session’s discussion of sexual economies, this lecture will look at some recent ethnographies of body image and aesthetic practices. Why are beauty pageants so popular across the region? How does physical beauty disrupt or intersect with other social hierarchies?


Lecture 7 (29/2): Syncretic essences: the politics of purity and mixture (MM)
If Latin America is famous for racial and cultural ‘mixture,’ what are the politics of mixture, past and present? In this lecture we will explore how people in Latin America actively combine elements of indigenous American, African, and European spiritual traditions and the theoretical debates this has given rise to.


Lecture 8 (7/3): Indigenous Issues (MM)
Indigenous issues pose a serious issue to political stakeholders across Latin America. This lecture will touch on some debates and issues regarding indigeneity that have made it into mainstream spheres, including questions of ethnicity, authenticity, land rights and so on.


**Lecture 9 (14/3): Latin America and the United States (AN).** Given the intensity of transmigration, as well as the outsized military and economic influence of the region’s northern neighbour, Latin American culture is unavoidably influenced by North American culture. But the reverse is also true. This lecture will show how flows of people and ideas across the US-Mexico border have changed over time, with specific discussion of economic neoliberalization and the effects of transmigration on families, media, and identities.


**Lecture 10 (21/3): Mediation and Popular Culture (MM).**

Like anywhere else, Latin America is highly ‘mediated’ and popular culture occupies a powerful place. What is peculiar about Brazil’s televisual industry? How have Latin American publics constructed themselves through media technologies past and present?


**Lecture 11 (28/3): Revision Lecture (MM/AN)**

6. Suggested Book List


