

BROOKLYN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
Department of Anthropology - Department of Puerto Rican & Latino Studies
[ANTH 3520- R5 \(38447\)/PRLS 3210 \(35932\) Latin America](#)^{1,2}
Fall 2022 – August 25, 2021 - December 21, 2022
Online Hybrid: TH 5:05-6:20PM (Synchronous meetings) + Asynchronous hours

Instructor: Prof. Joseph A. Torres-González, MA, CGS (He/Him/His/El)

Office Hours: TU/TH 4:30-5:00 PM (Via Zoom appointments)

Email: joseph.torres@brooklyn.cuny.edu - I will respond to emails in 24-48 hours.

Why request office hours? [Click Here](#)

A note on this course:

Welcome! This class is generously supported and part of an exciting initiative at CUNY called “[Transformative Learning in the Humanities \(TLH\)](#).” TLH focuses on equitable, creative, student-centered teaching. That means that this class is built with you—students—at the center. You are now a “**Mellon TLH Student Scholar**,” simply for showing up to this special class. This title is something you can put on your CV/resume either now, or down the road, to show future employers that you participated in this exciting program by taking this class. Thank you for being you and for being here!!

Catalog Description:

“Pre- and post-Conquest peoples and cultures of Central and South America, and the Caribbean; impact of European colonization; Asian & African influence; post-independence political and economic development; contemporary racial and identity politics; religion and social movements; urbanization and international migration.” (Lehman College Course Catalog, 2022)

Course Description:

In this course, we will focus on a survey of topics that will help us hone the discussion on cultural production, manifestations, and contestations. The course will provide an interdisciplinary perspective grounded in Anthropology, but also including materials from other fields in the social sciences, such as History, and Cultural Studies. The course will also introduce students to the four-field approach in Anthropology (Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, and Linguistics). The geographical region that will be covered in this class will be South America. This will provide students with a context to discuss topics that include **culture, race, and ethnicity**, connecting it to the main arguments around **cultural difference, identity, political economy, political economy, health, food, environment, language, politics, gender, sports, and religion**.

¹ Revised September 22, 2022.

² Syllabus structure inspired by an original design by Dr. Mila Burns, Assistant Professor, Department of Latin American & Latino Studies, Lehman College.

Common General Education Learning Outcomes addressed by this course:

1. *The students will engage with various anthropological topics, using the Four-Field Anthropology tradition, and will assess information from a variety of sources by:*
 - a. *Identifying and critiquing theories and concepts in the study South America;*
 - b. *giving appropriate and constructive feedback to student colleagues in class discussions;*
 - c. *creating connections between multiple ideas/authors/themes,*
 - d. *completing forums, and short reflexive response papers,*
 - e. *and by collaborating with student team members responsibly and ethically.*
2. *The students will identify and discuss race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, belief, social class, history, material culture by explaining the relationships between these themes, and their connections to South America.*

Some of my principles as a professor³

1. *No human being is illegal. We can disagree on most things, but not the basic humanity of all people.*
2. *I will never ask you to work harder than I do. No question is a dumb question.*
3. *I will show up and I ask you to (that means: preparation, attention, dedication, and diligence).*
4. *I want ALL my students to succeed. Let me know how I can help you on your journey.*
5. *We write to learn, and we learn to write (no matter how comfortable or uncomfortable/experienced or inexperienced we are with writing already).*
6. *Bring your whole self: all people are welcome in my class, and you can be assured that I will advocate for you and with you no matter your immigration status, pronouns, disability, family responsibilities, work commitments, etc. I expect those in the room to do the same. Always be open to speaking and having a collegial conversation.*
7. *Teaching is something that I love, and my commitment is with all of you.*

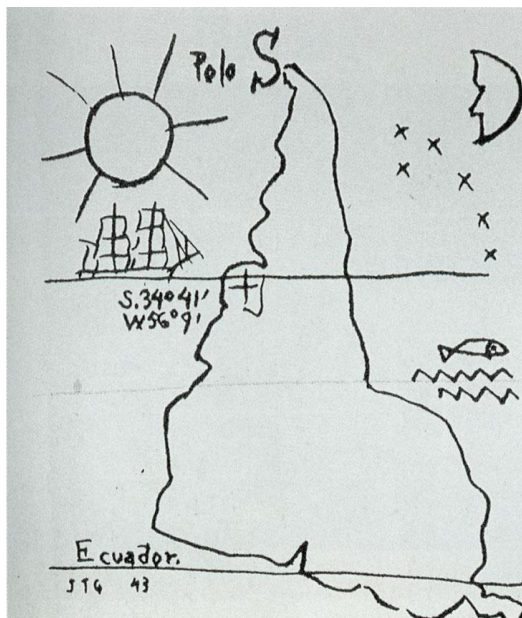


Image #1: *América Invertida*, Joaquín Torres García
[Source Link](#)

³ Inspired by Alyshia Gálvez, Cultural Anthropologist, Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, Lehman College, CUNY

A. Course Requirements and Assignments:

Response/Comments on Readings – No late posts will be accepted.

Each student will submit a short post with a brief comment on the readings/audiovisual resources. Students will submit a total of **four forums** by the time/dates they are due. This means that **you will select four out of the twelve modules** that you would like to respond to during the semester.

You may write comments regarding observations from what the authors are presenting, questions in the forum, connections between the audiovisual resources and the readings.

You may use 3 sentences at the beginning or end of your post to discuss personal connections or responses to the materials—you liked it, you hated it, it reminded you of something in your life, etc. The rest of your post should respond in a considered and scholarly way to the materials. In your forum response/comment, address the questions posed, and be sure to reference materials specifically, so that we know what you are referring to. Keep your post focused on thinking critically about the materials.

You can also include in your response/comment something new: a screenshot of a Tweet, a link for a news article, a video that is related to our module topic, a photograph, and include with this your own analysis interconnected with the readings and audiovisual resources for that specific module.

****You will submit two forum posts BEFORE the midterm is due and two forum posts AFTER you submit your midterm****

Midterm Essay - SU October 2, 2022 - 11:59PM - Mid-Term Essay

It will have a length of 3 pages, double-spaced, font size 12, not including the bibliography. The citation style that I will require is Chicago format. You won't need to do additional research. Be sure to give specific citations, with page numbers, for course readings on which you are commenting. I will post the instructions and prompt questions the week before it's due. You will submit the essay via our website link.

Collaborative Note Taking- During Each class meeting, a group of students will be taking notes on the class discussions. This task promotes participation, collaboration, and encourages engagement with other colleagues, along with building professional skills, such as: teamwork, synthesizing material, active participation/active listening, among others. We will have a shared Google Doc link available for all the students in class.

Final Paper - Reflective Letter- WE December 14, 2022 - 11:59PM

It will have a length of maximum 2-3 pages, double-spaced, font size 12. This final paper (reflection letter) will be a short letter that reflects on your work in this class. I will provide more detailed instructions for this assignment before the assignment is due.

B. Point distribution and Grade Conversion

- 4 Forum post- 40pts. (10 pts each)
 - Mid-term essay- 30pts.
 - Reflective Letter - 30pts.
- Total: 100pts.

Total Points: 100 pts
Disclaimer: I will not provide incompletes.

Grading Scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	60-69
F	59<



Image 2: “Fiebre de Fútbol: What Soccer means for Latin Americans” [Source Link](#)

C. Required Texts

All the materials (readings, audiovisual resources, class instructions, and links to materials) will be available on our course website. This is a “[Zero Textbook Cost](#)” course, meaning that there are no textbooks you need to purchase. The Open Educational Resource portal was created with the generous support of the [Brooklyn College Library](#) and the [OER/ZTC Faculty Development](#). Thank you to Amy Wolfe (Educational Technologist) and Prof. Miriam Deutch (Librarian & OER Director).

D. Attendance Policy and Emergencies (Amended)⁴

All work must be submitted on or before the day designated in the syllabus. **Do not email work. No late assignments are accepted. I will not provide incompletes.** All assignments should be submitted via our course site, unless stated otherwise. I am quite happy to work with you to find solutions to any difficulties that may arise in completing the work in a timely fashion, but this is 100% dependent on communication from you. It is difficult to retroactively devise solutions. If there is anything you need me to know or help you with, please let me know as soon as you are aware there may be an issue.

E. Career Services:

If you would like more information, visit their website [Magner Career Center](#)

F. Netiquette

Netiquette is online etiquette. Professional decorum is an important part of students’ socialization; therefore, it is important that all course participants demonstrate respectful online behavior. Though we may use less formal speech in some of our course discussions, remember that obscene, threatening, or contemptuous language would never be appropriate. For more information about Netiquette, see [The Core Rules for Netiquette](#) by Virginia Shea.

⁴ Based on the following [policies](#) – Metropolitan College of New York and inspired from the syllabi of Alyshia Gálvez.

G. Accommodating Disabilities

For more information, please contact the [Center for Student Disability Services](#)

H. Makeup policies:

Students should seek accommodations with any COVID related issues in the same way as you do with any other medical issue, (provide documentation, such as a PCR test), and I will provide you with a way to make up the work. You must report a COVID-related issue as above and that the email you receive in response will serve as your documentation.

I. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy

Brooklyn College Policy Available in this [Link](#)

J. Technology Support for Students at Brooklyn College

Information Available in this [Link](#)

K. Student Handbook

Information Available in this [Link](#)

L. Course Bibliography per week

Week #1 - Introduction -TH August 25, 2022

- Syllabus and course overview, requirements, expectations, and goals.
- Freire, Paulo. 1993. "Chapter 2" in [Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#). New York: Continuum Books.

Week #2- Anthropology of South America - Delimiting Geographies -TH Sept 1, 2022

- Sanabria, Harry. 2019. "Chapter 1: Anthropology, Latin America, and the Caribbean" in [The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean, Second Edition](#), 1-27. (Available on BB)
- Chasteen, John Charles. 2016. "Welcome to Latin America" in [Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America](#), 4th edition, 1-16.
- Said, Edward. 1979. (1994). "Introduction" [Orientalism](#). 25th Anniversary edition. New York: Pantheon Books. Pp. 1-28.

FR Sept 2- MO Sept 5, 2022 - No classes scheduled/College Closed on Labor Day

Week #3- Traditions of Latin American Thought: ECLAC/CEPAL UN-TH Sept 8, 2022

- Fajardo, Margarita. 2022. "Introduction", "Chapter 1: Latin America and the Postwar Global Order", "Epilogue: Dependency Theory in the World and Back in Latin America" in [The World That Latin America Created: The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in the Development Era](#). Boston: The University of Harvard Press. Pp. 1-43, 197-218.
- Website: [History of ECLAC \(Economic Commission for Latin America & The Caribbean\), United Nations](#)

Week #4- Before the European Conquest: Anthropology in South America & Human Rights (I)-TH Sept 15, 2022

- Sanabria, Harry. 2019. "Chapter 2: Before the Europeans" in [The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean, Second Edition](#), 31-65.
- Borofsky, Robert. 2005. [Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy and What We Can Learn From It](#). Berkeley: The University of California Press. (Selections)

Week #5- Before the European Conquest: Anthropology in South America & Human Rights (II)-TH Sept 22, 2022

- American Anthropological Association. 1991. [Report of the Special Commission to Investigate the Situation of the Brazilian Yanomami](#).
- Skurski, Julie. 2011. "Chapter 9: Past Warfare: Ethics, Knowledge, and the Yanomami Controversy" [AnthroHistory: Unsettling Knowledge. Questioning Discipline](#), edited by Edward Murphy, David William Cohen, Chandra D. Bhimul, Fernando Coronil, Monica Eileen Peterson, and Julie Skurski. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 121-139.

MO Sept 26- TU Sept 27, 2022 - No Classes Scheduled

No Class- TH Sept 29, 2022 - Conversion Day, Classes Follow Monday Schedule

SU October 2, 2022 - 11:59PM - Mid-Term Essay

MO Oct 3- WED October 5, 2022 - No classes Scheduled

Week #6- Race in South America -TH Oct 6, 2022

- Sanabria, Harry. 2019. "Chapter 5: Cultural Politics of Race and Ethnicity" in [The Anthropology of Latin America and the Caribbean, Second Edition](#), 123-148.
- Wade, Peter. 2008. "[Race in Latin America](#)" in [A Companion to Latin American Anthropology](#). Ed. Deborah Pool. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 177-192.
- Pinho, Patricia. 2015. "[The Dirty body that cleans: Representations of Domestic workers in Brazilian Common sense](#)". *Meridians*, 13(1): 103-128.
- **Case study- Video Documentary:** Language, indigeneity, and race in Perú "[Nuqanchik: Peruvian News and the politics of language](#)" – The Listening Post Al Jazeera – December 17th, 2018

MO October 10, 2022 - Indigenous Peoples Day - No classes Scheduled/College Closed

Week #7 - Gender, Sexuality and Beauty in South America-TH Oct 13, 2022

- Arango-Londoño, Alejandro. 2021. "Reshaping Masculinities and the Beauty Industry in Colombia" in [Remaking the Human: Cosmetic Technologies of Body Repair, Reshaping, and Replacement](#). Edited by Alvaro Jarrín and Chiara Pussetti. New York: Berghahn Books, 123-140.
- Rahier, Jean Mutiba. 2014. "Blackness, the Racial-Spatial Order at Work and Beauty Contest Politics: *Señoras, Mujeres, Blanquamiento*, and the *Negra Permitida*" in [Blackness in the Andes: Ethnographic Vignettes in Time of Multiculturalism](#). New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 121-146.
- **Documentary:** [The Beauty Factory \(2013\)](#) - Venezuela

Week #8 - Medical Anthropology and Health -TH Oct 20, 2022

- Henninger-Rener, Sashur. 2020. "[Health and Medicine](#)" *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*, 2nd edition. Ed. Nina Brown, Laura Tubelle de González, and Thomas McIlwraith. Washington DC: American Anthropological Association, 425-443.
- Cavender, A.P., Albán, M. 2009. "[The use of magical plants by curanderos in the Ecuador highlands.](#)" *Journal of Ethnobiology & Ethnomedicine*, 5(3): 1-9.
- **Video - Medicine Man** -Directed by Guille Isa and Billy Silva - Ecuador
- **Short Documentary - "Comidas que Curan" - Foods that Heal** (2014) - Ecuador

Week #9 - Politics and Sports -TH Oct 27, 2022

- Archetti, Eduardo. 1999. "Introduction: Frameworks and Perspectives" in [Masculinities: Football, Polo, and Tango in Argentina](#). New York: Berg Publishers.
- **Short Documentary: Soccer in Latin America** (2014) - UConn, El Instituto
- **Documentary- American Fútbol** Directed by Peter Karl, Petar Madjarac (2019)

Week #10- Language -TH Nov 3, 2022

- Light, Linda. 2020. "[Language](#)" in [Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology](#). Ed. Nina Brown, Laura Tubelle de González, and Thomas McIlwraith. Pp. 70-95.
- Rodríguez, Juan. 2019. "[I Don't Know How People on Minimum Wage Make it](#)": [The Semiotic Scaling of Political Crisis and Emotions in Venezuela.](#)" *The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology*, 24: 518-535.

Week #11- Capitalism, and Labor in South America -TH Nov 10, 2022

- Nash, June. 1978. "[Culture, Community, and Class Consciousness in Bolivian Tin Mines](#)" *Working Papers* 56, The Wilson Center: Washington DC.
- Roseberry, William. 1994. "Images of the Peasant in the Consciousness of the Venezuelan Proletariat" in [Anthropologies and Histories: Essays in Culture, History, and Political Economy](#). New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 55-79.
- Kappeler, Aaron. 2019. "[Coffee and socialism in the Venezuelan Andes](#)", *Focaal*, 84: 1-17.

Week #12 - Food, & Commodities in South America -TH Nov 17, 2022

- Mintz, Sidney W., Chee-Beng Tang, and Christine M. DuBois. 2008. "Introduction: The Significance of Soy" in [The World of Soy](#), Chicago: The University of Illinois Press, 1-26.
- Sergio Freire de Sousa, Ivan and Rita de Cássia Milagres Texeira Vieira. 2008. "Soybeans and Soyfoods in Brazil, with notes on Argentina: Sketch of an Expanding World Commodity" in [The World of Soy](#), Chicago: The University of Illinois Press, 234-256.
- Folch, Christine. 2010. "[Stimulating Consumption: Yerba Mate Myths, Markets, and Meanings from Conquest to Present.](#)" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 52(1), 6-36.

TH Nov 24 - SU November 27, 2022 - Thanksgiving Holiday College Closed

Week #13- Political Violence in Latin America -TH Dec 1, 2022

- Skurski, Julie and Fernando Coronil. 2006. "Introduction: States of Violence and the Violence of States" in *States of Violence*, Edited by Julie Skurski and Fernando Coronil. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1-32.
- Blau, Joshua. 2016. "[The application of forensic anthropology to the investigation of cases of political violence: Perspectives from South America](#)," In *Handbook of forensic anthropology and archaeology*, New York: Routledge, 67-75.
- Auyero, Javier, Agustín Burbano de Lara, and María Fernanda Berti. 2013. "[Violence and the State at the Urban Margins](#)" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 43(1): 94-116.

Week #14- Political Economy-TH Dec 8, 2022

- Lyon, Sarah. (2020). "[Economics](#)" in Nina Brown, Thomas McIlwrath, and Laura Tubelle de González (Eds.), *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology* Arlington: American Anthropological Association.
- Roseberry, W. (1996). "[The rise of the yuppie coffees and the reimagination of class in the United States](#)" *American Anthropologist*, 762-775.
- Documentary: [Connected by Coffee](#) (2014)

TU December 13, 2022 - Final Day of Class

WE December 14, 2022 - Final Assignment - Reflection Letter Due

M. Course Schedule - Modules⁵

Module/Dates	Topic	Readings/Tasks
Week #1- TH August 25, 2022	<i>Introduction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Syllabus and course overview, requirements, expectations and goals. ● Read: Freire (1993), Clark-Hine (2011) ● Respond to Forum Post #1
Week #2 - TH Sept 1, 2022	<i>Anthropology of South America - Delimiting Geographies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Sanabria (2019) - Ch 1, Chasteen (2016), Said (1979) ● Respond to Forum Post #2
FR Sept 2- MO Sept 5, 2022 - No classes scheduled/College Closed on Labor Day		
Week #3- TH Sept 8, 2022	<i>Traditions of Latin American Thought - ECLAC/CEPAL UN</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Fajardo (2022) Introduction, Ch1 & Epilogue; History of ECLAC/CEPAL website

⁵ Additional audiovisual resources (podcasts, documentaries, films) are posted on our course website.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respond to Forum Post #3
Week #4- TH Sept 15, 2022	<i>Before the European Conquest: Anthropology in South America & Human Rights (I)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Sanabria (2019) - Ch 2, Borofsky (2005) Selections ● Respond to Forum Post #4
Week #5- TH Sept 22, 2022	<i>Before the European Conquest: Anthropology in South America & Human Rights (II)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Report from the AAA (1991), Skurski (2011) ● Respond to Forum Post #5
MO Sept 26- TU Sept 27, 2022 - No Classes Scheduled		
No Class- TH Sept 29, 2022 - Conversion Day, Classes Follow Monday Schedule		
SU October 2, 2022 - 11:59PM - Mid-Term Essay		
MO Oct 3- WED October 5, 2022 - No classes Scheduled		
Week #6- TH Oct 6, 2022	<i>Race in South America</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Sanabria (2019) Ch 5, Wade (2008), Pinho (2015) ● Watch: The Listening Post Al Jazeera (2018) documentary ● Respond to Forum Post #6
MO October 10, 2022 - Indigenous Peoples Day - No classes Scheduled/College Closed		
Week #7- TH Oct 13, 2022	<i>Gender, Sexuality and Beauty in South America</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Arango-Londoño (2021), Rahier (2014) ● Watch: The Beauty Factory (2014) Documentary ● Respond to Forum Post #7
Week #8- TH Oct 20, 2022	<i>Medical Anthropology & Health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Henninger-Rener (2020), Cavender & Albán (2009) ● Watch Video: Medicine Man;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Comidas que Curan” Short Documentary ● Respond to Forum Post #8
Week #9- TH Oct 27, 2022	<i>Politics and Sports</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Archetti (1999) Introduction. ● Watch “American Fútbol” (2014) documentary ● Respond to Forum Post #9
Week #10 - TH Nov 3, 2022	<i>Language</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Light (2020), Rodríguez (2019) ● Respond to Forum Post #10
Week #11 - TH Nov 10, 2022	<i>Capitalism, and Labor in South America</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Nash (1978), Roseberry (1994), Kappler (2019) ● Respond to Forum Post #11
Week #12 - TH Nov 17, 2022	<i>Food, & Commodities in South America</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Mintz, Chee-Beng & DuBois (2008), Sergio Freire de Sousa & Teixeira Vieira (2008), Folch (2010) ● Respond to Forum Post #12
TH Nov 24 - SU November 27, 2022 - Thanksgiving Holiday College Closed		
Week #13 - TH Dec 1, 2022	<i>Political Violence in Latin America</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Skurski & Coronil (2006), Blau (2016), Auyero, Burbano de Lara & Berti (2013) ● Respond to Forum Post #13
Week #14- TH Dec 8, 2022	<i>Political Economy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: Lyon (2020), Roseberry (1997). ● Watch: Connected by Coffee Documentary ● Respond to Forum Post #14

TU December 13, 2022 - Final Day of Class

**WE December 14, 2022 - Final Assignment -
Reflection Letter Due - 11:59PM**



Image 3: Carey, Mathew, and William Guthrie. *A map of South America: according to the best authorities.* [Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1796] Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division. [Source Link](#)

Image 4: [ECLAC - UN](#) (Economic Commission for Latin America & Caribbean)



R. Websites and Electronic References

This is just a sample of many more resources available at universities in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, there are many more. Feel free to ask me at any moment if you have questions or inquiries of additional websites or sources of information. I will gladly help you locate them.

- ❖ [Latin American Studies Association Website](#)
- ❖ [American Anthropological Association Website](#)
- ❖ [Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies – Graduate Center, CUNY](#)
- ❖ [Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies– New York University \(NYU\)](#)
- ❖ [Institute for Latin American Studies- Columbia University](#)
- ❖ [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations](#)
- ❖ [Department of Latin American & Latino Studies- Lehman College, CUNY](#)
- ❖ [CUNY Mexican Studies Institute - Lehman College, CUNY](#)

This syllabus may be adjusted throughout the semester pending time constraints to ensure full understanding of concepts and class material.