

Anthropology 3241 “Culture and Power in Contemporary Latin America”
Unique #'s: 30120 and 40105
GAR 1.126—9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Charles R. Hale, crhale@mail.utexas.edu

Professor Hale's Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2-4 (EPS 2.140) and by appointment with Carla Lañas clanas@austin.utexas.edu

Co-instructor and TA: Vivian Newdick, viviann@mail.utexas.edu

Vivian Newdick's office hours: Tuesdays 11:15 – 1:15 (SRH 1.324) and by appointment

Course Description

This course provides an overview of key issues in the anthropology of Latin America, with an emphasis on the relationship between processes of identity formation and power relations. The first third of the course is historical, focusing on the arrival of Europeans and the establishment of colonial regimes; the liberal transformations of the 19th century; and the post-1950 era of revolutionary movements. The rest of the course will be devoted to contemporary ethnography. A guiding metaphor throughout the course will be that of *mestizaje* (ideologies of race mixture), whose multiple meanings recapitulate the course's principal themes, and dramatize their complexity. The *mestizaje* metaphor also brings into focus what might be called the intimacy of power: how broader political forces and patterns (structural inequalities, class struggle, race making and racism, social movements, revolutions, political violence) unfold in and through the day to day, up-close relations people have with one another. The “culture and power” approach obliges us simultaneously to address both these levels of the political, and each of the texts in this course are concerned in some way with this articulation: between the macro-political and intimate power relations across the axes of race, gender, and class inequality.

Required texts (available at the Coop):

Babb, Florence, *After revolution: mapping gender and cultural politics in neoliberal Nicaragua*

Burns, E. Bradford, *The poverty of progress : Latin America in the nineteenth century*

Clendinnen, Inga, *Ambivalent conquests : Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570*

Sanford, Victoria, *Buried secrets: truth and human rights in Guatemala*

Spener, David, *Clandestine crossings : migrants and coyotes on the Texas-Mexico border*

Lazar, Sian. *El Alto, rebel city : self and citizenship in Andean Bolivia*

Bobrow-Strain, Aaron, *Intimate enemies: landowners, power, and violence in Chiapas*

Outline of Topics

Aug. 26—Introduction: the “culture and power” approach

Aug. 31—Mestizaje

Moraga, Cherrie “A Long Line of Vendidas” pp. 90-142, [Blackboard](#)

Paz, Octavio, *Labyrinth of Solitude*, pp. 65-88, [Blackboard](#)

Rodriguez, Richard, “Mixed Blood” pp. 47-56, [Blackboard](#)

Wolf, Eric, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, pp. pp. 233-256, [Blackboard](#)

Weeks 2 &3 (Sept. 2, 7, 9, 14) *Conquest, Invasion and struggles over representation*

Clendinnen, Inga, *Ambivalent conquests : Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570*

Sepúlveda and Las Casas, [Blackboard](#)

Forum #1: Tuesday, September 14: Sepúlveda and Las Casas: shared and divergent premises

Weeks 3 & 4 (Sept. 16, 21, 23) *The Frustrated Promise of Independence*

Burns, E. Bradford, *The poverty of progress : Latin America in the nineteenth century*

****Map test: Thursday, September 23****

Weeks 5 & 6: Up from the Ashes: Maya Identity Politics—Guatemala (Sep. 28, 30, Oct. 5, 7)

Sanford, Victoria *Buried Secrets*

Forum #2: Tuesday, October 5: What does it mean to be a “human rights victim”?

Film: Thursday, October 7: “Discovering Dominga”

Weeks 7 & 8: Revolution and its Aftermath—Nicaragua (Oct. 12, 14, 19, 21)

Babb, Florence *After Revolution*

Film (Oct. 19): “Pictures from a Revolution”

Forum #3: (Oct. 21): Interview with Carlos Fernando Chamorro

Weeks 8 & 9: Indigenous resistance and “citizenship”—Bolivia (Oct. 26, 28, Nov. 2, 4)

Lazar, Sian. *El Alto, rebel city: self and citizenship in Andean Bolivia*

Film: Tuesday, Nov. 2 “Sucre = Racismo”

Forum #4: Thursday, Nov. 4: “Is ‘deracialization’ of Bolivian politics possible?”

Weeks 10 & 11: Race, Violence and the Intimacy of Power—Mexico (Nov. 9, 11, 16, 18)

Bobrow-Strain, Aaron *Intimate Enemies : Landowners, power, and violence in Chiapas*

Film: Tuesday, November 16 “A Massacre Foretold”

Forum #5: Thursday, November 18 “What is the role of the state in ‘non-state’ violence?”

Weeks 12 & 13 Bringing the analysis home—Immigrant Lives (Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 2)

Film: “Which way home?” (to be viewed over Thanksgiving break)

Forum #6: Thursday December 2: “Immigration debates: Las Casas and Sepulveda revisited?”

Spener, David, *Clandestine crossings : migrants and coyotes on the Texas-Mexico border*

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471- 6441 TTY.

Course requirements:

A map test, four critical-analytical essays (5 pp each), in-class presentations (to be explained in class). Paper topics will be passed out on the third session of each two-week (four session) segment, and papers will be due at the time and date noted in the syllabus. You are required to write the first paper and the paper associated with Weeks 10 & 11—Race, Violence and the Intimacy of Power. The other two papers may be chosen from among the remaining segments. The final grade will be calculated in the following manner: Map Test 4 points; Papers: 72 points (i.e. 18 points each); Classroom presentations and participation: 24 points. You may write one additional paper (and one only) in order to have the lowest grade dropped.

Paper Due Dates (5 p.m. C.R. Hale Anthropology Faculty Mailbox)

#1: Monday, September 20

#2: Monday, September 27

#3: Monday, October 11

#4: Monday, October 25

#5: Monday, November 8

#6: Monday, November 22

#7: Monday, December 6