

ANTHROPOLOGY 426
DECOLONIZING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH WORLD ANTHROPOLOGIES

Professor:	Professor Carla Guerrón Montero
Email Address:	cguerron@udel.edu
Course:	MWF 9:10-10:05 Munroe Hall 103
Office hours:	In person or online by appointment only
Teaching Assistant:	Liliana Rafoth
Email Address:	lrafoth@udel.edu
Office hours:	In person or online by appointment only

This syllabus contains detailed information about the requirements of this class. Please refer to it to fulfill your reading and writing assignments and any other questions regarding this class. Please be very careful in following ALL of the instructions in this syllabus to write your assignments appropriately.

Course Description

“Can a planetary anthropology cope with both the 'provincial cosmopolitanism' of alternative anthropologies and the 'metropolitan provincialism' of hegemonic schools?” (Lins Ribeiro and Escobar, 2006)

This course dismantles the myth that anthropology is a unified Western discipline by exploring how the field is practiced, theorized, and transformed across the globe. Students will discuss how anthropologies from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Indigenous North America engage in dialogue with North American and Western European traditions. We will examine the racial and gender inequalities that have historically shaped academic anthropology and explore how conversations across diverse anthropological traditions can fuel powerful decolonial agendas. We will focus on:

- How different regions develop distinct anthropological theories, methods, and practices
- The worlds created through varied anthropological approaches worldwide
- Strategies for "doing anthropology otherwise": dismantling colonial legacies by recognizing diverse knowledge systems
- Real-world connections between anthropological traditions and everyday life across cultures

A **key component** of this course is the design and implementation of social action campaigns addressing a campus or community issue, putting decolonial anthropological practice into action. With the professor's support, students will work in groups throughout the semester to launch their social action campaigns.

Required Texts

1. ALONSO BEJARANO, Carolina, Lucía López Juárez, Mirian A. Mijangos García, and Daniel M. Goldstein. 2019. *Decolonizing Ethnography: Undocumented Immigrants and New Directions in Social Science*. Durham: Duke University Press.
2. HARRISON, Faye (ed). 2010. *Decolonizing Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation*, 3rd edition. Arlington, VA: American Anthropological Association.
3. LINS RIBEIRO, Gustavo and Arturo Escobar. 2006. *World Anthropologies: Disciplinary Transformations within Systems of Power*. New York and London: Routledge.
4. MYERS-LIPTON, Scott. 2023. *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*. 2nd edition. New York and London: Routledge.
5. RIVERA CUSICANQUI, Silvia. 2021. *Ch'ixinakax Utxiwa: On Decolonizing Practices and Discourses*. Cambridge, UK and Medford, MA: Polity Press.

Other Required Readings

1. Selected articles provided by the professor [available on Canvas]

Course Requirements

1. Participation:	120 points
2. Review research paper of one World Anthropology	100 points
2. Presentation of one World Anthropology	100 points
4. Take-home exam:	100 points
5. Social Action Campaign:	200 points
6. Group portfolio of Social Action Campaign:	180 points
7. Group presentation on the social action campaign in class:	100 points
8. Individual reflection on Social Action Campaign process:	100 points
TOTAL	1000 points

Participation: Students must come to each class prepared and read the assigned materials before class. Students should also make every effort to arrive in class **on time**. Classes will start promptly at **9:10 am**. Students will engage in in-class writing exercises several times throughout the semester. These exercises will count toward the participation grade and cannot be taken later or substituted for other activities.

Review Research Paper Presentation of World Anthropologies: During the first week of classes, each student will select one world anthropology chapter from the book *World Anthropologies*. They will conduct in-depth research on the selected country or region beyond the book chapter and present their findings to the class in **Weeks 12 to 14**. They will also write a 10-page paper with their findings. The review paper, due on **Monday, May 11, 2026**, should be typed in Times New Roman or an equivalent font (10- to 12-point), double-spaced.

Take-home exam: There will be one take-home exam covering the material from the readings, lectures, videos, and in-class discussions. The take-home exam is due on **Friday, May 8, 2026** (submitted through Canvas as a Word document).

Social Action Campaign: A crucial component of this course is preparing a group social action campaign. Students will form groups of three and focus throughout the semester to identify an issue and organize a social action campaign to address it. The students will also launch their campaign and organize actions around it. The professor will guide students through the process and will offer in-class time for this work. However, students should expect to spend time outside of class on this project.

Group Portfolio and Presentation of Social Action Campaign: As part of the social action campaign, students will prepare a portfolio that documents their process and results. In the materials they prepare, students will demonstrate explicit connections between their social action campaign and the course material on the intersection of decolonial thought and world anthropologies. They will also give a presentation to their classmates at the end of the semester (**Week 15**). The group portfolio is due on **Monday, May 18, 2026**. Students will receive extra credit for participating in the Social Action Campaign Summit on **May 7, 3:00-4:30 pm**.

Individual Reflection: Students will write a 5-page essay reflecting on their experience collaborating with other students to conceive, organize, prepare for, and launch a social action campaign. The essay should be typed (minimum 10-point font size, maximum 12-point font size, Times New Roman or equivalent font; double-spaced). The reflective essay is due on **Friday, May 1, 2026**.

All written assignments in class should be of very high quality in form and content. Points will be deducted for syntax and orthography problems in papers; consequently, students must proofread their assignments before turning them in. Students should consider making an appointment with the UD Writing Center (302-831-1168; <http://www.english.udel.edu/wc>) or dropping in at 016 Memorial Hall for proofreading and other suggestions regarding writing essays and papers.

Special Considerations

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY. Please refer to the General Statement of Policies and Procedures for Students in Anthropology (attached to this syllabus) for academic dishonesty information. It is the student's responsibility to read and understand this document.

CLASS ETIQUETTE. Please turn off cellular phones and other electronic devices and refrain from engaging in conversations unrelated to class during class time. Please arrive on time for class. **Classes will start promptly at 9:10 am.**

EXTRA CREDIT, INCOMPLETES, AND GRADING SCALE. No extra credit assignments will be given to individual students, but extra credit opportunities will be offered to all students in the classroom. A curve will not be used to determine final grades.

OFFICE HOURS POLICY. The professor will hold office hours by appointment, either in person at 34 W Delaware, Room 202, or via Zoom. Please contact the professor in advance to schedule an appointment.

REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. Kindly remember that professors are not obligated to write a letter of recommendation for every student who requests one. The professor for this course only writes a reference for a student if she can write a specific letter with very positive comments. Therefore, your job as a college student is to become the kind of student professors can recommend enthusiastically—hardworking, collegial, intellectually inquisitive, and honest. Additionally, please remember to make your request for a letter of recommendation at least three weeks before your deadline (Statement adapted and modified with permission—Amy Weldon, Associate Professor of English, Luther College).

USE OF ADVANCED AUTOMATED TOOLS. Students may use advanced automated tools (such as ChatGPT or DALL · E 2) for assignments in this course with the instructor's prior permission. Unless permitted to use those tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

If permission is granted to use advanced automated tools (such as ChatGPT or DALL · E 2), they must be properly documented and credited. Text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: “ChatGPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). “Text of your query.” Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>” Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation convention. In addition, if a tool is used in an assignment, students must also include a brief (2-3 sentences) description of how they used the tool.

COURSE OUTLINE

This schedule may change at any time according to class needs and demands. For instance, we might spend more time than expected on a topic students find more interesting. Students will be advised in advance of such changes. There will be no changes regarding assignment deadlines

Week One: February 2 to February 6, 2026

- Introduction of the professor and the students
- Understanding World Anthropologies
- Introduction to Change!: Social Action Model (Issue Development)
- Discussion of video: “Walk the Walk”
- Readings:
 - Lins Ribeiro and Escobar’s *World Anthropologies*, “Preface,” (pp. 1-28)
 - Harrison’s *Decolonizing Anthropology*, “Anthropology as an Agent of Transformation”, (pp. 1-16)
 - Myers-Lipton’s *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, XI-XVIII and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-6)

Week Two: February 9 to February 13, 2026

- Understanding Decolonial Thought
- Social Action: Issue development
- Readings:
 - Rivera Cusicanqui’s *Ch’ixinakax Utxiwa*, “Introduction” by Veronica Gago (pp. vii-xxxiii) and “Another Bicentennial,” (pp. 1-11)
 - Blakey, Michael L. “Man and Nature, White and Other.” In Harrison’s *Decolonizing Anthropology*, pp. 16-24.
 - Myers-Lipton’s *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 1 (pp. 7-19)

Week Three: February 16 to February 20, 2026

- Understanding Decolonial Thought
- Random Acts of Kindness Week: Guerrilla Kindness (February 16, 2026; 12-2:00 pm, Morris Library)
- Social Action: Setting the Tone
- Sharing your Social Action Campaigns with the World [[Student Campaign Survey](#)]
- Readings:
 - Rivera Cusincangui’s *Ch’ixinakax Utxiwa*, “Sociology of the Image,” (pp. 12-45 and 46-70)
 - Myers-Lipton’s *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 2 (pp. 20-27)

Week Four: February 23 to February 27, 2026

- Understanding Decolonial Anthropology
- Social Action: Change Theory
- Readings:
 - Davison Buck, Pem. “Colonized Anthropology: Cargo-Cult Discourse.” In *Harrison’s Decolonizing Anthropology*, pp. 25-41.

- Gordon, Edmund. "Anthropology and Liberation." In Harrison's *Decolonizing Anthropology*, pp.150-169.
- Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 3 (pp. 28-42)

Week Five: March 2 to March 6, 2026

- Decolonizing Ethnography and Methods
- Guest lecture: Professor Carolina Alonso Bejarano (School of Law, University of Warwick): "Decolonizing Ethnography" (Monday, March 2, 2026)
- Social Action: Building Power
- Readings:
 - Bejarano et al.'s *Decolonizing Ethnography: Undocumented Immigrants and New Directions in Social Science* (all)
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 4 (43-59)

Week Six: March 9 to March 13, 2026

- Decolonizing Ethnography and Methods
- Craftivism workshop (Thursday March 12, 2026, Morris Library)
- Social Action: Social Action Campus Tour and Research
- Readings:
 - Bourgois, Philippe. "Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography." In Harrison's *Decolonizing Anthropology*, pp.111-127.
 - D'Amico-Samuels, Deborah. "Undoing Fieldwork." In Harrison's *Decolonizing Anthropology*, pp. 68-87.
 - Harrison's *Decolonizing Anthropology*, "Ethnography as Politics", pp. 88-110.
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 5 (pp. 60-71)

Week Seven: March 16 to March 20, 2026

- Social Action: Group Dynamics
- Class time for social action campaign preparation
- Readings:
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 6 (pp. 72-80)

Week Eight: March 23 to March 27, 2026

- Spring break: No classes will be held

Week Nine: March 30 to April 3, 2026

- Social Action: Strategy and Tactics and Campaign Kickoff
- Readings:
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 7 (pp. 81-113)

Week Ten: April 6 to April 10, 2026

- Social Action: Campaign Plan
- Class time for social action campaign preparation
- Readings:
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 9 (pp. 113-121)

Week Eleven: April 13 to April 17, 2026

- Social Action: Campaign Actions
- No new readings

Week Twelve: April 20 to April 24, 2026

- World Anthropologies
- Student Presentations on World Anthropologies (Japan, Siberia, and China)
- Social Action: Campaign Actions
- Readings:
 - Lins Ribeiro and Escobar's *World Anthropologies*, Chapters 2, 3, and 4
 - Fabian, Johannes. "World anthropologies: Questions" (Chapter 14). In Lins Ribeiro and Escobar's *World Anthropologies*, (pp. 281-296)

Week Thirteen: April 27 to May 1, 2026

- World Anthropologies
- Student Presentations on World Anthropologies (Mexico, Spain, Postcolonial Africa, and the Andes)
- Social Action: Campaign Evaluation
- Readings:
 - Lins Ribeiro and Escobar's *World Anthropologies*, Chapters 5, 7, 8, and 10
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 10 (pp. 122-124)
- (Friday, May 1, 2026: Individual reflection essay on social action campaign due via Canvas)

Week Fourteen: May 4 to May 8, 2026

- World Anthropologies
- Student Presentations on World Anthropologies (Australia, the Tropics, and France)
- Social Action: The Hero's and Shero's Journey
- Extra credit points for groups attending and presenting at the Spring 2026 Summit on College Student Social Action (May 7, 2026, 3:00- 4:30 pm)
- Readings:
 - Lins Ribeiro and Escobar's *World Anthropologies*, Chapters 6, 11, and 13
 - Myers-Lipton's *Change! A Student Guide to Social Action*, Chapter 11 (pp. 125-130)
- (Friday, May 8, 2026: Take-home exam due via Canvas)

Week Fifteen: May 11 to May 13, 2026

- Toward Decolonial Dialogue, Connections, and Integration in World Anthropologies
- Social Action Group presentations
- No new readings
- (Monday, May 11, 2026: World Anthropologies research paper due via Canvas)
- (Monday, May 18, 2026: Group portfolio due via Canvas)

POINTS SCALE FOR ANTH 426

Scale	Letter
1000-932	A
931-900	A-
899-866	B+
865-832	B
831-800	B-
799-766	C+
765-732	C
731-700	C-
699-666	D+
665-632	D
631-600	D-
Below 600	F

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

The University of Delaware's Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Students has developed a set of policies and procedures governing the rights and responsibilities of those engaged in the education process. Certain of these policies and procedures apply to the conduct of classes and are clearly explained in the manual *Student Guide to University Policies*, prepared by the Office of Campus Life. It is the responsibility of both students and faculty to be knowledgeable about the content of this document, which is available at <http://www1.udel.edu/stuguide/19-20/index.html>.

Academic Integrity

Students in anthropology classes will be held responsible for understanding and adhering to the Statement of Academic Policy. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be handled through the University's judicial process. Please familiarize yourself with UD policies regarding academic dishonesty. Falsifying the results of one's research, stealing the words or ideas of another, cheating on an assignment, resubmitting the same assignment for different classes, or allowing or assisting another in committing these acts corrupts the educational process. Students are expected to do their work and neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance. If you have doubts about correct practice, you should seek the advice of your instructor before completing assignments. Complete details of the University's academic integrity policies and procedures are available at sites.udel.edu/studentconduct/sgup/. The Office of Student Conduct is located at 218 Hullihen Hall and can be contacted at (302) 831-2117 or student-conduct@udel.edu.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students in anthropology classes will be held responsible for understanding and adhering to the *Student Guide*. As a department, we are especially concerned that students be aware of their rights and responsibilities. Since we expect you to hold us to our responsibilities, we expect you to hold us to ours. As faculty members and anthropologists, we have an institutional and disciplinary commitment to just and equitable regard for human differences; differences in gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, physical condition, and sexual orientation. Humor or disparagement directed at individuals or groups merely by virtue of their inclusion in such a category is unacceptable. Where attempts of such humor or disparagement are recognized, they should be called to the attention of the faculty member or the Department Chairperson. All communication with the Chairperson will be kept strictly confidential.

While the Student Guide presents policies on disruptive *behavior*, policies on courtesy are less clear. Courtesy is essential to the unrestricted flow of information, and we regard it as a responsibility owed to all parties in the education process: student to teacher, teacher to student, and student to student. Private conversations or activities during class (whether in person or online) can be both discourteous and disruptive, as are early, unannounced exits from class. While individual faculty may establish attendance policies for classes, students are expected to remain in class unless they become ill during class or have indicated at the beginning of class that they will need to leave early.

Harassment and Discrimination

The University of Delaware works to promote an academic and work environment free from all forms of discrimination, including harassment. As a community member, your rights, resources, and responsibilities are outlined in the non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies. Please familiarize yourself with these policies at www.udel.edu/oei. You can report any concerns to the University's Office of Equity & Inclusion at 305 Hullihen Hall or by phone at (302) 831-8063. Or you can report

anonymously through UD. Police at (302) 831-2222 or the EthicsPoint Compliance Hotline at www1.udel.edu/compliance. You can also report any violation of UD policy on harassment, discrimination, or abuse of any person at sites.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct/how-to-report/.

Faculty Statement on Disclosures of Instances of Sexual Misconduct

If, at any time during this course, I happen to be made aware that a student may have been the victim of sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, or stalking). In that case, I am obligated by federal law to inform the University's Title IX Coordinator. The University needs information about such incidents to provide resources and ensure a safe campus environment. The Title IX Coordinator will decide if the incident should be examined further. Suppose such a situation is disclosed to me in class, in a paper assignment, or during office hours. In that case, I promise to protect your privacy—I will not disclose the incident to anyone but the Title IX Coordinator.

For more information on Sexual Misconduct policies, where to get help, and reporting information, please refer to www.udel.edu/sexualmisconduct. At UD, we provide 24/7/365 crisis assistance, victim advocacy, and counseling. Please contact (302) 831-1001 to reach a sexual offense support advocate and to access confidential, anonymous counseling services for other concerns.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Any student who thinks they may need an accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible by phone at (302) 831-4643, online at the DSS website, or via email at dssoffice@udel.edu. The DSS office is located at 240 Academy Street, Alison Hall, Suite 130; during the Covid-19 response, it is necessary to call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Students who have documentation of their need for accommodation should register via the SAM platform at andes.accessiblelearning.com/UDEL/.

Non-Discrimination

The University of Delaware does not discriminate against any person based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, disability, religion, age, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law in its employment, educational programs and activities, admissions policies, and scholarship and loan programs as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies. The University of Delaware also prohibits unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment and sexual violence.

For inquiries or complaints related to non-discrimination policies, please contact the Office of Equity & Inclusion by phone at (302) 831-8063, email at oei@udel.edu, or 305 Hullihen Hall.

For complaints related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services by phone at (302) 831-4643, by email at dssoffice@udel.edu, or in Alison Hall 130.

Office of Equity and Inclusion

The Office of Equity and Inclusion supports and advocates for a positive and enriching learning environment for undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students. The OEI is committed to fostering a robust educational environment that supports critical thinking, free inquiry, and understanding diverse views and values. The central work of the Office is recognizing and appreciating the diverse backgrounds, values, and ideas of those who comprise our campus, and a commitment to ensuring that all people on our campus are treated according to the principles of fairness, civility, dignity, and equity. The OIE is located at 305 Hullihen Hall and can be reached by phone at (302) 831-8063

Preferred Name and Gender Inclusive Pronouns

We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate/preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise us of this preference early in the semester so we can make appropriate changes to our records. To affirm each person's gender identity and lived experiences, we must ask about and check in on pronouns during class sessions. This simple effort can make a profound difference in a person's experience of safety, respect, and support.