

## 325-18 People and Cultures of South America

### Research paper guidelines and potential topic list

Research topics involving any aspect or area of South America and any one or more of the four anthropological sub-disciplines (see below) may be selected for a research paper, pending proposal approval. Research can focus on one culture or compare across cultures, regions, or culture areas. The paper should be at least 10 pages in content length (excluding citations), with its structure roughly as follows:

- **introduction**      statement of topic/hypothesis, brief abstract of findings or conclusions
- **methods**            brief discussion of types of sources used and why selected (if relevant)
- **presentation**        detailed discussion of information or data and interpretation of findings
- **discussion**            of alternative interpretations, additional hypotheses or possibilities, limitations of research, etc.
- **conclusion**            summary statement of research findings, implications, suggestions for further research
- **bibliography**        see [http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style\\_guide.pdf](http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.pdf)

For best grade, work should be clearly organized and written. Typos, misspellings, and poor grammar will not be favorably received. All assertions must either be appropriately cited explicitly described as your own.

A brief research proposal (10/9) must be submitted for approval, and should report on chosen topic and the availability and quality of relevant sources. It should fully cite at least three preliminary sources you have consulted that convinced you that further research would be feasible (5%). Research notes or a rough draft must be submitted (10/23) for general evaluation and comment. These should include full citations for at least a majority of the sources on which you will be relying (5%). The final paper is due on 11/29 (20%). Brief presentations of your research will take place on 11/27-29, for half of your course participation grade (5%).

Any issues or questions, please contact me. Also keep in mind that I will accept drafts at any point for additional feedback you may desire up to the date of final submission.

**Selected research topics from previous classes (it's been a while...)**

- Alto de Cruzeiro and Scheper-Hughes' debate
- Body Shop and Kayapo
- burial customs of the Moche
- cannibalism
- Colombian cocaine trade and indigenous populations
- comparison of cultural attributes and environment of Tierra Del Fuego tribes
- comparison of effects of Conquest: Inca/Araucanians
- comparisons of acculturation
- conceptions of pregnancy and birth
- disappeared in Chile
- effects of Jesuit missions on Guarani
- evaluation of rural development strategies in Colombia
- forms of tobacco use
- Inca art development
- Inca religiosity
- infanticide
- Jivaro warfare and ritual
- Kayapo pre and post contact subsistence strategies
- mining in Bolivia
- Moche art and architecture
- Monteverde update
- mummification in the Andes
- Nazca lines
- Pizarro: upbringing shaped his actions?
- Quipus as "writing"
- religion in Brazil
- sculpture of Chavin
- shamanism
- Trickster tales
- Tukano shamanism
- Umbanda and sexual metaphors of possession
- weapons
- Yaman myths
- Yanomamo debates
- Yanomamo gender roles