Black *AND* Latino/a?

Understanding and Teaching the African Diaspora in Latin America
Presenter Information

- Andrea Queeley, Ph.D.
  - Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African and African Diaspora Studies
  - Cultural Anthropologist
  - Focus on the Caribbean and Latin America
  - Director of Summer Study Abroad Program to Ecuador and Brazil: ‘Afro-Latin America: Identities, Cultures, Social Movements’
- Contact info:
  - aqueeley@fiu.edu
  - 305-348-6289
The Three ‘I’s

✨ Investment
- Knowledge, education
- Personal and social transformation
- Our Students…what do you hope to bring back?
The Three ‘I’s

✦ Invisibility of Afro-Latin Americans
  ✦ Historical Touch Points
  ✦ Why Invisibility?
  ✦ Contemporary Presence and Activism
  ✦ Media Exposure
    ✦ A Rising Voice: Afro-Latin Americans (Miami Herald)
    ✦ Black in Latin America (PBS, Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)
The Three ‘I’s

Identity

Terminology

U.S.: Hispanic, Latino/a, Black
Latin America: blanco, negro, mulatto, pardo, negra tinta, mulatto avanzado, etc.

Race, Ethnicity, Nation

Race as socially constructed category
Ethnicity refers to language, geographic origin, beliefs
National identity supersedes racial and ethnic identities

Processes of Social Categorization
Three ‘I’s

✦ Cuban Roots/Bronx Stories:
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbxGDLLrWG8

✦ Speaks to issues of identity, invisibility…and the 4th ‘I’: immigration

✦ Journey of the first and second generations to discover and reconnect with their past

✦ Window into U.S. and Cuban history from perspective of this particular immigrant family
Assignment

확
Freewriting exercise (3 minutes)
  ✰ Share reactions to film clip
  ✰ How would you use this film in your classroom?
  ✰ Family Oral History Project
  ✰ Social Activism and Movements in the U.S.
  ✰ Caribbean-Latin American Migrations
  ✰ Popular Ideas of Blackness in Music and Literature
    (soundtrack, poem ‘Y Tú Abuela Dónde Está?’)
Teaching History, Challenging Invisibility

- African Diaspora in Latin America
  - Historical Touch Points
    - Early African Presence
    - Invisibility: How and Why?
  - Contemporary Populations of African Descent
    - Distributions
    - Key Issues
“No Longer Invisible”: Ubiquitous Presence of Africans

❖ African presence in Spain pre-conquest
  ❖ Muslim Northern Africans invaded the Iberian peninsula in 711 and controlled it to varying degrees until 1492 (almost 800 YEARS)
  ❖ African influence over language, culture, architecture, technology, education

❖ Africans in Americas
  ❖ Came from the Iberian kingdom in early part of Spanish conquest (early-mid 1500s) then directly from Africa and/or the Caribbean
  ❖ Centrality of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
Amistad

Amistad: 1839 Rebellion aboard a schooner
- From Africa to Havana to Puerto Principe, Cuba
- Aim to return Africa but steered to U.S.
- Illegality of the Slave Trade

Amistad clip: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vo- JejTp7O4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vo-JejTp7O4)

How would you use this story in your classroom?
- Middle Passage
- Abolition Movement
- Americas linked through slavery
Historical Touch Points

✧ Estimated Africans enslaved in Latin America: 5.7 million with 2 million to Brazil

✧ Some estimates between 10-15 million destined for Latin America

✧ Discrepancies

✧ Can only have rough estimates: questionable reliability of ship ledgers, number of people who died en route to the coast and on the ships, people who escaped immediately, etc.
Historical Touch Points

- Abolition of the Atlantic slave trade: 1807/1835
  - Illegal Trade continued into 1860s (Cuba and Brazil)
- Period of Abolition of Slavery: 1822-1888
  - Brazil was last to abolish in 1888, preceded by Cuba in 1886
- Independence from Spain: by 1825 (except Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898)
- Brazilian Independence from Portugal: 1825
Early African Presence

- African participation in the conquest and colonization of the Americas
  - Disproportionate number of enslaved Africans had military experience as many were war captives
  - Military participation was a route to manumission
  - *Pardo* militias, consolidated by 18th century, play important role in colonial defense
Early African Presence

- Black Spanish Militia
African/Latin American Diversity

❖ Origins:
  ❖ African-born (West, Central Africa)
    ❖ Ethnic group (language, geographic area, belief systems, physical characteristics, skills, etc)
  ❖ Iberian-born
    ❖ Time period, arrival in Europe
    ❖ Mixed ancestry
  ❖ American-born
    ❖ Caribbean, Mainland
    ❖ Generation
    ❖ Mixed ancestry
African Diversity

✧ Status
  ✧ Free, enslaved
    ✧ Caste Laws: constraints on free people of color

✧ Occupations
  ✧ Presence of skilled laborers (carpenters, blacksmiths, artisans, etc.)
  ✧ Military and militias
  ✧ Agricultural Laborers: sugar, tobacco, coffee, indigo
  ✧ Domestics and laborers in cattle, wine and other industries
African Diversity

- **Occupational Diversity**
  - Rural—50 to 60% of enslaved performed agricultural labor, the rest labored in processing, transport, domestic sphere
  - Urban—enslaved labor used in cities to perform a wide variety of tasks
    - Domestic Workers
    - Dock Workers at Port Cities: loading and unloading cargo
    - Transporting goods throughout city
    - Selling products for local consumption
    - Ganadores in Brazil: capoeira, link to social and cultural life
Forms of Resistance

- Practicing Cultural Traditions in Hostile Environment
- Armed opposition at sea
- Work Stoppages, Illness, Theft
- Formation of Maroon Communities
  - Quilombos in Brazil…http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T2_zFAD9s0 (clip from Quilombo Country)
  - Palenques in Spanish colonies
- Revolts: individual and collective acts of armed revolt constituting violent resistance
Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)

✧ In the **mid-1700s**, Saint Domingue became **largest single supplier of sugar** to the world (source of 1/2 to 2/3 of ALL sugar in the world)

✧ Imported about **800K Africans** in a 40 year period, which was about one third of the ENTIRE slave trade during this period

✧ 1789: Slave population of nearly **500K with 32K whites and about 25K gens de couleur**
The Haitian Revolution

- Overthrew both colonialism and slavery
- Resulted in the second independent republic in the Americas (U.S. being the first) and first Black republic in the world
- Tremendous impact on the region and the world
  - Economic: sugar & coffee shifts to Cuba and Brazil
  - Demographic
    - 6-700K Africans to Cuba, 1.7M to Brazil
    - Migrations out of San Domingue to Cuba and New Orleans
  - Cultural: Strengthening of African institutions and identities
  - Ideological: ‘The Spectre of Haiti’ vs. ‘Ultimate Promised Land’
    - Latin American Liberator Simón Bolívar exiled in Haiti, Haitians soldiers accompany him back to LA and fight Spain
Race and Nation-Building

- Barbados or Canada?...What will the destiny of these post-colonial nations be?
- National Fate -- National identity – Racial and Cultural Identity
- Progress = European Identity
- Backwardness = African and Indigenous Identity
- African and Indigenous Populations = Eliminate or Assimilate
## Demographic Presence 1800

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>Afro-Latin Am. pop</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,305,000 (67%)</td>
<td>1,942,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>635,000 (10%)</td>
<td>6,122,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>552,000 (62%)</td>
<td>898,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>326,000 (54%)</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>306,000 (39%)</td>
<td>787,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>90,000 (56%)</td>
<td>162,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>81,000 (6%)</td>
<td>1,232,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>69,000 (37%)</td>
<td>187,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santo Domingo</td>
<td>68,000 (66%)</td>
<td>103,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>41,000 (66%)</td>
<td>62,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>33,000 (8%)</td>
<td>429,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>31,000 (8%)</td>
<td>383,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>11,000 (11%)</td>
<td>97,000</td>
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### Demographic Presence 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>Afro-Latin Pop</th>
<th>Total Pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>76,419,000 (45%)</td>
<td>169,799,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>3,808,000 (34%)</td>
<td>11,199,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>416,000 (11%)</td>
<td>3,809,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>200,000 (6%)</td>
<td>3,337,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>10,514,000 (44%)</td>
<td>24,169,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>8,887,000 (21%)</td>
<td>43,320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>7,053,000 (84%)</td>
<td>8,396,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>1,314,000 (46%)</td>
<td>2,856,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>632,000 (5%)</td>
<td>12,645,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Rising Voice

★ Great Resource for Demographic Data


★ Assignments

★ Census: Debate, Create Census, Poll Community
★ Investigation of data on each country
★ Research project on Latin American hip hop
Contraction in Population after 1800

- End of importation of Africans
- High mortality rates, Low reproduction
- European immigration: national policy of whitening the population
- Biases on part of census takers—desire to project a modern nation where blackness is directly opposed to modernity and progress
- Self-reported identity
- Mestizaje/Mulataje as national identity
Mestizaje translates as “mixture” and refers to racial and cultural mixture but is also an example of a racial ideology.

It is a Latin American response to scientific racism, which refers to the use of pseudo-science to justify the racial hierarchy and was at its height in the late 1800s/early 1900s.

Promotes racial mixture and identity of nation as racially mixed

Complex system of categorization coexists with a racial hierarchy in which blackness is stigmatized and whiteness is elevated.
Identity: Latin American Racial Terminology

- Negro, Negrón, Negro fino, Negra tinta, Negro teléfono
- Mulatto, Mulatto claro, Mulatto avanzado/atrasado,
- Jabao/a,
- Blanco, Rubio, Trigueño
- Pardo
- Mestizo
- Zambo
- Etc.
Racial Democracy
(Equality)

✧ Term most often associated with Brazil

✧ There are no distinct races in Latin America because everyone is mixed. Without race, there can be no racism.

✧ National identity unifies people of different races and everyone is equal as citizens of the nation. Those who complain about racial discrimination are acknowledging racial difference and challenging national unity.

✧ Class, not race or color, are the primary mechanisms of social stratification
Faces of Afro-Latin America
Afro-Latin America: Contemporary Realities

- 150 million people of African descent in Latin America (28-40 million indigenous)
- 30% of the population, >50% of poorest inhabitants
- Colombia Example
  - 26% of population, 75% of poor
  - Earn 34% less than non-black counterparts
  - Crisis of forced displacement
- Brazil
  - Black and mulatto unemployment is twice that of whites, employed blacks earn half
  - 78% below poverty line compared to 20% of whites
Afro-Latin America: Contemporary Realities

- Experience of blackness is heterogenous, stigma of blackness is similar.
  - Higher rates of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, mortality
  - Land Rights—Displacement—Colombia
    http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI48VjO1yFM
  - State-sponsored violence
  - Employment Discrimination
  - Social Discrimination—attitudes and beliefs about blackness (pelo bueno/malo, adelantar la raza, cosa de negros, cuentos de negros)
  - Lack of Political Power
Afro-Latin America: Contemporary Realities

- La Lucha Continua… Afro-Latin American Social Movements
- Regional Levels
  - Alianza Estratégica de Afro-Latinoamericanos
  - Organización Negra Centroamericana
- National Level
  - Movimento Negro in Brazil (beginning in early 20th c), Afro-Venezuelan Network, Mundo-Afro (Uruguay), others in Panama, Colombia
- Addressing different forms of race and gender oppression such as in employment, political representation, and land rights
Afro-Latin Diaspora: Identities

Contrasting Systems of Racialization

- **US**: two-tiered. Rather than Black and White, one drop makes a person non-white rather than black.
- **Puerto Rico**: phenotype and status tend to define racial identity, thus people in the same family can be of different "races"...yet the poles remain.
- **DR**: key difference is the role of Haitians as defining blackness, thus their racial identity is defined through their national identity.
- **Honduras and other Central American countries**: blackness is defined through region and/or ethnicity ie: Garifuna or Creoles are the blacks.
Identity: Terminology (US)

- Hispanic
  - Hispania: Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal)
  - Spain as primary referent
- Latino/a
  - Latin American origins
- Chicano/a
  - Mexican ancestry
- Black
  - African ancestry—”one drop” rule
Identity: U.S. Census

- Students research census categories over time
  - What are the most notable changes in racial and ethnic categorization?
  - When did ‘Hispanic’ appear
  - What are the different options for ‘Black’?
  - Who is included and excluded?
  - Census as an instrument and reflection of the social construction of race
Online Resources

- [www.afrocubaweb.com](http://www.afrocubaweb.com)
Selected Readings

- No Longer Invisible: Afro-Latin Americans Today, Minority Rights Group
- Afro-Latin America 1800-2000, George Reid Andrews
- Beyond Slavery: The Multi-layered Legacy of Africans in Latin America and the Caribbean, Darien Davis
- Neither Enemies Nor Friends: Latinos, Blacks, Afro-Latinos, Anani Dzidzienyo and Suzanne Oboler, eds.
- Blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean: Social Dynamics and Cultural Transformations, Norman Whitten and Arlene Torres, eds.
- The Atlantic Slave Trade, Herbert Klein
- Avengers of the New World: the Story of the Haitian Revolution, Laurent DuBois
- The Farming of Bones, Edwidge Danticat