

GEOGRAPHY 378: Geography of Latin America

Spring Semester 2011

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INTRODUCTION

This course is designed to provide an overview of the geography of Latin America and the Caribbean. Historical, human, cultural, political, physical, and environmental aspects will be emphasized.

OBJECTIVES

- Gain knowledge of the physical and human features of Latin American countries through exercises, lectures, videos and homework.
- Learn about Latin American current affairs through regular discussions, and homework.
- Be able to identify the different cultures, idiosyncrasies of the people of Latin America.
- Be able to understand how the use of Geographic Information Systems can be applied to decrease rural poverty in a small community of a Latin American country.

COURSE MATERIALS

Book: “Geography of Latin America: A Geographic Information Systems Approach” (author: Juan Paulo Ramirez). All additional readings will be supplied. Google Earth will be used during class to “visit” locations of interest. A video about Chile and Eastern Island will be watched during class and it will available in BlackBoard. YouTube videos will be watched during class as well.

COURSE DETAILS

1. Three exams will be given. The first exam will take place on **February 17**, the second will be on **March 31**, and the final is on **May 5**. If you are going to miss an exam, you must contact me before that period. It is entirely your responsibility to contact me. If you fail to do so, it will not be possible to take a make-up exam. You will receive a study guide one week before an exam.
2. Three assignments will be given. See course schedule for due dates.
3. The plus/minus system is used in this class – 80-82.9% is a B-, 83-86.9% is a B, 87-89.9% is a B+ and so forth. See details below.
4. Pass/No Pass Option. The course may be taken with this grading option.
5. Withdrawal from the course: this course can be dropped and not appear on your permanent grade record through January 21. From January 22 through April 8

you can withdraw from the course; however a “W” will be noted on your permanent record. After April 8, it will not be possible to withdraw from the class.

6. **Attendance:** behave as a professional.

EXAMS/ ASSIGNMENTS and GRADES

Exams	Points
Exam 1	TBA
Exam 2	TBA
Exam 3 (Final)	TBA
TOTAL	TBA

Assignments	Points
Assignment 1	100
Assignment 2	100
Assignment 3	100
TOTAL	300
Gran Total	TBA

Final Grades will be based on overall points.

Grade Percentage

	From	To
A+	97.0	100
A	93.0	96.9
A-	90.0	92.9
B+	87.0	89.9
B	83.0	86.9
B-	80.0	82.9
C+	77.0	79.9
C	73.0	76.9
C-	70.0	72.9
D+	67.0	69.9
D	63.0	66.9
D-	60.0	62.9
F	0	59.9

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1/13 - CLASS 1: Introduction. Becoming a professional. Countries and cities.
1/20 - CLASS 2: The Aztec, Maya and Inca Civilization (Chapter 1).
1/27 - CLASS 3: Physical features (Chapter 2).
2/03 - CLASS 4: Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Chapter 3).
2/10 - CLASS 5: Case study: Chile (GIS and movie). Homework 1 (Article: Globalization)
2/17 - EXAMEN 1
- 2/24 - CLASS 6: Human Dimensions (Chapter 4)
3/03 - CLASS 7: Case studies: Mexico and Bolivia
3/10 - CLASS 8: Art and Literature (Chapter 5)
3/17 - CLASS 9: Current Affairs. Olivas-Briggs Discussion (Chapter 6). Homework 2 (Panama Canal)
3/24 - Spring Break.
3/31 - EXAM 2
- 4/07 - CLASS 10: Central America
4/14 - CLASS 11: Caribbean
4/21 - CLASS 12: Andean America.
4/28 - CLASS 13: Southern Cone. YouTube video about indigenous people of Patagonia. Homework 3 (Article: Polynesian contact)
5/05 - FINAL EXAM

OTHER NOTES

If you have a disability, special needs, or requirements that must be addressed in order for you to facilitate your educational opportunities in this class please let me know.

Plagiarism: I will review all your homework using Google. I copy and paste sections of your sentences into Google and then check for plagiarism. If I found that you plagiarized your work you will have the opportunity to redo it, and you will have to do an additional homework. Doing both you will have the chance to get a D-.

Exam Retakes: no retakes

- **SENDING AND RECEIVING E-MAILS**

Please send your e-mails to me in a courteous way. I expect you to behave in a professional manner, so be polite and concise when you communicate with me. We are going to address this during the Introduction of this class. If you send me an e-mail expect to receive a reply. If you do not receive a reply from me in 24 hours it means that I did not get your e-mail.

- FINAL GRADES ARE FINAL. Exceptions: If you got 59.9% as a total, you can get a D- if you have actively participated during class. This rule only works for “F” grades.