

GEA 3405 – LA34(23735)

GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

University of Florida, Department of Geography

Spring 2022, 3 Credits

M, W, F (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM)

Room: Walter J. Matherly H 0015

Instructor: Gabriel C. Carrero

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 or by appointment (Zoom meeting ID: 9856 002 7373; Passcode: GEA3405).

Office: via Zoom meeting

Email: gcarrero@ufl.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to be an introduction to Latin American Geography and will consequently cover many topics with a broad-brush stroke, with the aim to fill in some detail regarding contemporary issues facing the region. To facilitate learning, the course will follow thematically with the required text, which divides the material into three components: **Physical, Cultural, and Economic Geography**.

The objectives of the course are to provide the student with an understanding of: (1) the variety of physical environments covering Latin America, (2) the cultural, social, and historic factors that influenced the creation of Latin American cultural diversity, and (3) the manner in which economic, social, and environmental processes coalesce to shape different geographies of development throughout the diverse regions of Latin America.

Required Materials for this course:

- **Textbook:** Clawson, David (2012) Latin America and the Caribbean: Lands and Peoples, 5th Edition. Available at the college bookstore.
- **Other readings** will be made available on the Canvas E-Learning website.
- **E-learning:** can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. I strongly recommend you use the **Google Chrome** browser, as it reduces

the glitches and problems may arise in other web browsers. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or email helpdesk@ufl.edu.

- **Technology:** You will need to have **Google Chrome** installed to take the midterm exam using Honorlock. You will also need either a scanner or a free scanner app on your phone to upload homework assignments to Canvas as PDFs should you choose to hand-write them. If you are having difficulties with your computer set up, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or email helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Grading Policy: All assignments and due dates are listed in the course schedule which can be found at the end of this syllabus as well as on the Canvas E-Learning website. Grades for each assignment can be found on the Grades Page of the Canvas course site.

Grades are used as a tool to measure performance. To perform well in this class the following will help you: (1) attend class regularly (2) take lecture notes and set aside time to read the pertinent parts of the text (3) participate in class exercises. If you are not doing well and have studied, read, and attended class, please e-mail me or come and see me – do not wait until the end of the semester.

Graded assignments: There are four areas where grades will be issued: essays, class participation, final student presentations, and exams. Each will be described below, followed by more specific Writing Requirement criteria for the essay portion of the assignments.

- **Essays (30% of final grade):** This course requires **three 2,000 word essays** to be written throughout the semester. They are to be turned in via the Canvas course website by midnight the day they are due. They will be focused on the three thematic sections on which the course is structured (physical, cultural, and economic geography). More details on how essays will be assessed can be found under the ‘Writing Evaluation’ heading below.
- **Discussion Posts, Quizzes, and Course Activities (30%):** students will be expected to contribute a discussion post related to the assigned activity (5 of 6), as well as respond to a classmate’s posts. Discussion posts should raise questions about the readings and critically evaluate them or connect them to current events, rather than simply summarizing them. You can skip one of the 6 discussion posts. Some weeks will have quizzes rather than discussion posts (5). Other course activities include group work with presentations and debates. Discussion posts and quizzes will not be accepted late, unless previously agreed with the instructor by e-mail exchange on Canvas.
- **Final Student Presentations (10% of final grade):** Each student will be required to do a presentation on their third and final essay topic at the end of the semester. It will be graded on the clarity and quality of the presentation and depth of engagement with geographic concepts (max 7 min).
- **Midterm Exam (20% of final grade):** A midterm exam will be administered.
- **Class participation (10% of final grade):** Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in class discussions.
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GRADING:

Assignment	Points	Specific Requirements
Essays		
Essay 1: Physical Geography	10	2,000 Words
Essay 2: Cultural Geography	10	2,000 Words
Essay 3: Economic Geography	10	2,000 Words
Midterm	20	
Discussion Posts & Course Activities	30	
Final Essay Presentation	10	<7 Minutes
Class Participation	10	Attendance and Participation
Total	100	

WRITING EVALUATION:

The three essays required for this course will also fulfill the University's writing requirements, requiring 2000 words each, for a total of 6000 words. The writing will be evaluated on content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style and mechanics. Evaluations will be on individual work. To receive writing credit, you must receive a minimum grade of C (2.0) and satisfactory completion of the writing component, according to the rubric that follows.

WRITING REQUIREMENT (aka Gordon Rule) - RUBRIC FOR

EVALUATION: "Satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory" indicate ranges for grades.

	SATISFACTORY (Y)	UNSATISFACTORY (N)
CONTENT	Papers exhibit at least some evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provide at least an adequate discussion with basic understanding of sources.	Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.
ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE	Documents and paragraphs exhibit at least some identifiable structure for topics, including a clear thesis statement but may require readers to work to follow progression of ideas.	Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, may lack any coherent sense of logic in associating and organizing ideas, and may also lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.

ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT	Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, documents may provide only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.	Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.
STYLE	Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical sentence structure. At a minimum, documents will display a less precise use of vocabulary and an uneven use of sentence structure or a writing style that occasionally veers away from word choice or tone appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline.	Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction. Documents may also use words incorrectly.
MECHANICS	Papers will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, papers may contain some spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that remain unobtrusive so they do not muddy the paper's argument or points.	Papers contain so many mechanical or grammatical errors that they impede the reader's understanding or severely undermine the writer's credibility.

GRADING SCALE:

A	94-100%	C	74-76%
A-	90-93%	C-	70-73%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-79%
B	84-86%	D	64-66%
B-	80-83%	D-	61-63%
C+	77-79%	E	0-60%

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Important Note: This syllabus represents a tentative schedule. The instructor reserves the right to modify it. As COVID-19 is still an issue, the class will be hybrid to minimize students

exposure to infection: some of the days will have online lectures instead of face-to-face, as per the schedule below. At least 51% of the classes will be live. The first class will be dedicated in part to reviewing this syllabus to ensure all topics of interest to the majority of the students are included.

Week	Date	Module	Class details	Readings & Assignments
1	5-Jan	Introductions & Review syllabus	Syllabus	Module 1 Quiz
	7-Jan	M1: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean	Ch. 1,; Latin America: What's in a Name?	
2	10-Jan	M2: Landform Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean	Landforms	Module 2 Activity and Discussion Post Ch. 2
	12-Jan	M3: Weather and Climate	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch. 3
	14-Jan	M3: Weather and Climate	Module 3 Group Work	IPCC LA Report
3	17-Jan	M: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No Class		
	19-Jan	M3: Weather and Climate	Presentations	
	21-Jan	M4: Natural Regions		Ch. 4
4	24-Jan	M4: Natural Regions	Denevan 1992	Denevan 1992
	26-Jan	M4: Natural Regions		Module 4 Quiz
	28-Jan	M5: Iberian Heritage, Conquest, and Institutions	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch. 5 (97-109); Ch. 7 (156-172)
5	31-Jan	M5: Iberian Heritage, Conquest, and Institutions	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch Guns, Germs and Steel online	Module 5: Activity and discussion post
	2-Feb	M6: Colonial Era, Independence	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch 5, (p. 109 - 124). Ch 7, (p. 173 - 177)
	4-Feb	M 6: Colonial Era, Independence		Module 5 6 extra recap Essay I (2000 words) due Sunday by 11:59

6	7-Feb	M 7: Republican Period to Contemporary Political Change	Watch one video and prepare to discuss it in class	Ch 5, (p.115 - 124). Ch 6
	9-Feb	M 7: Republican Period to Contemporary Political Change		Student Presentations
	11-Feb	M 7: Republican Period to Contemporary Political Change		Student Presentations
7	14-Feb	M8: Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch 7, (p. 174-188)
	16-Feb	M8: Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	Extras	
	18-Feb	M8: Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	Discussions	Discussion Post Module 8
8	21-Feb	Midterm review	Will be in class to answer any questions	Check guidance / Review Midterm Content
	23-Feb	Midterm Exam	ONLINE - CANVAS using Honorlock	
	25-Feb	M9: Latin America as a Culture Region	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Overview Ch. 8
9	28-Feb	M9: Latin America as a Culture Region	Corruption & Arts	
	2-Mar	M9: Latin America as a Culture Region	Gender Issues	
	4-Mar	M10: Religion	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch. 9
10	5-Mar to 12-Mar	SPRING BREAK		
11	14-Mar	M10: Religion		
	16-Mar	M10: Religion	Discussions	Module 10 Quis
	18-Mar	M 11: Agriculture and Agrarian Development		Ch. 10 Essay II (2000 words) due Sunday by 11:59
12	21-Mar	M 11: Agriculture and Agrarian Development	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch Banana Land Documentary	Discussion Pot Module 11

	23-Mar	M 11: Agriculture and Agrarian Development	Oxfam Report	Oxfam Report
	25-Mar	M 11: Agriculture and Agrarian Development	Agrarian Reform Debate Working Group	
13	28-Mar	M 12: Mining, Manufacturing and Tourism	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures online	Ch. 11
	30-Mar	M 12: Mining, Manufacturing and Tourism		
	1-Apr	M 12: Mining, Manufacturing and Tourism cont.		Module 12 Quiz
14	4-Apr	M 13: Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration cont.	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures 1 and 2 online through Canvas & read other materials	Ch 12
	6-Apr	M 13: Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration cont.	NO LIVE CLASS - Watch lectures 3 and 4 online through Canvas & read other materials	Ch. 12
	8-Apr	M 13: Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration cont.	Migration discussion group work	
15	11-Apr	M 13: Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration cont.	Migration discussion	
	13-Apr	M 14: Development and Health	Development concepts/ history	Ch. 13
	15-Apr	M 14: Development and Health	Human Development Report 2020	Human Development Report 2020 Module 14 Quiz
16	18-Apr	M 14: Development and Health	Discussion	
	20-Apr	Final Presentations		
	22-Apr	Final Presentations		Due to the 24th - Essay III (2000 words) due Sunday by 11:59

17	23-Apr to 29- Apr	No Final Exam
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UF POLICIES

COVID-19 Online Synchronous Learning Statement

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Academic Honesty, Regulations and the Honor Code

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. Details on student responsibilities and regulations can be viewed at

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/academic-regulations.aspx>

Academic dishonesty (cheating) is not accepted in any class at the University of Florida. The practice of any type of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the entire class. You will find me to be a flexible faculty member in all aspects except academic honesty.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with University of Florida policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. You must be registered with Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) in Reid Hall for disability verification and determination of reasonable academic accommodations. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first week of the semester (except for unusual circumstances) so arrangements can be made. For more information, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ 352-392-8565

Course Evaluation

I would be grateful to receive feedback on this class. The University of Florida provides you with 10 criteria with which to evaluate the quality of instruction. Feedback can be provided

online at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu> and evaluations are usually open the last 2 weeks of the semester. I am sincerely committed to improving the class experience for you and always learn from student feedback.

GETTING HELP:

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support