

GEA3405

GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA

Instructor: Dr. Simmons

Office Phone: Off Campus - E-mail concerns/questions via Canvas Mail

Office Address: Off Campus

Office Hours: Tuesday 10AM – 12PM (Online - Zoom)

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 TEXT:

Clawson, David (2012) *Latin America and the Caribbean: Lands and Peoples*, 5th Edition; Available at the College Bookstores or Online at Amazon.com.

Other Readings available to you on Canvas.

GRADING POLICY:

All assignments and due dates are listed on the Course Calendar and on the Syllabus page on the Canvas course. Grades for each assignment can be found on the Grades Page.

Grades will be based the following items:

1. Quiz for each Module - 10 points each.
2. Activities and Discussion Boards for each module – 10 points each.
3. One essay at 2000 words to meet Gordon Rule Requirement – 35 points each.

The writing will be evaluated on content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style and mechanics. Evaluations will be on individual work and the evaluated work will be returned to you before the last day of class. 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.

GORDON RULE - RUBRIC FOR EVALUATION: “Satisfactory” and “unsatisfactory” indicate ranges for grades on Gordon Rule assignments.

	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.
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GRADE SCALE:

94-100 %	A	74-76 %	C
90-93 %	A-	70-73 %	C-
87-89 %	B+	67-69 %	D+
84-86 %	B	64-66 %	D
80-83 %	B-	61-63 %	D-
77-79 %	C+	0-60 %	E

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.
- Attendance & makeup policy: Students are expected to participate in online discussions and submit assignments by the specified due date. If you will be unable to meet a deadline for an excused purpose, please advise me in advance or as soon as possible. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in

this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in Attendance Policies.

- **Grade Disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

UF POLICIES:

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Students Requiring Accommodations: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students on the Gator Evals page.

Software Use: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy: There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Health and Wellness

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- **Counseling and Wellness Center:** counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- **University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

- **E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
- **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
- **Library Support**, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- **Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- [Student Complaints Campus](#)
- [On-Line Students Complaints](#)