GEA3405

GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA

Summer A 2020 - Online

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Office Hours:	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 11 AM – 1 PM (Online)
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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. Three Essays at 2000 words to meet Gordon Rule Requirement – 35 points each.

These assignments 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 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	Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in summaries or narratives that fail to provide critical analysis.

	only generalized discussion of ideas or may provide adequate discussion but rely on weak support for arguments.	
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.

GRADE SCALE:

94-100 %	A	74-76 %	C
90-93 %	A-	70-73 %	C-
87-89 %	B+	67-79 %	D+
84-86 %	B	64-66 %	D

80-83 % B-   61-63 % D-

77-79 % C+   0-60 %   E

Assignment Schedule:

Week 1 (May 11th – May 16th): Modules 1 & 2

Week 2 (May 17th – May22nd): Modules 3 & 4

Week 3 (May 24th – May 29th): Gordon Rule Paper #1, Modules 5, 6, and 7

Week 4 (May 31st – June 5th): Modules 8 & 9

Week 5(June 7th – June 12th): Gordon Rule Paper # 2, Modules 10, 11, and 12

Week 6 (June 14th – June 19th): Module 13 and Gordon Rule Paper # 3

Geography of Latin America - Summer A Assignment Schedule						
May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Module 1 Due		Module 2 Due	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Module 3 Due		Module 4 Due			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Gordon Rule Paper #1	Module 5 Due		Module 6 Due		Module 7 Due	
31						

June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Module 8 Due		Module 9 Due			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gordon Rule Paper #2 Due	Module 10 Due		Module 11 Due		Module 12 Due	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Module 13 Due				Gordon Rule Paper # 3 Due	

Late Work Policy:

All work submitted after the assigned due date is subject to a 10% penalty *per day*. Meaning, an assignment worth 10 points submitted one day late will automatically be penalized a 1 point deduction, and 2 points after two days, and so on. Keep in mind that some assignments (i.e. Gordon Rule Papers) are worth more and will result in higher point deductions per day.

UF POLICIES:

University Policy on **Accommodating Students with Disabilities**: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office https://disability.ufl.edu/. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on **Academic Misconduct**: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

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.

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

Other resources are available at https://counseling.ufl.edu/

- Counseling and Wellness resources

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

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. 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 at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx.