Course Syllabus

GEA3405

GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA

Instructor: Dr. Simmons

Office Phone: N/A

Office Address: Office Closed for Construction

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

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 – 15 points each.

Gordon Rule Requirement Assignment – 35 points. ONLY FOR STUDENTS SEEKING WRITING

You have THREE Options to choose from for your 6000 word essay, which corresponds to three modules:

#1 - Reflection Paper on Political Geography of "A" Latin American Country (Module 3)

#2 - Policy Position Paper on Mega-Dam Construction in Amazonia (Module 5b)

#3 - Policy Position Paper on Immigration (Module 6)

The papers must be submitted by August 10, 2018.

This assignment will fulfill the University's writing requirements 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	Documents use persuasive and confident presentation of ideas, strongly supported with evidence. At the weak end of the Satisfactory range, documents may provide only	Documents make only weak generalizations, providing little or no support, as in

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

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

UF POLICIES:

University Policy on **Accommodating Students with Disabilities**: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (**http** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **://** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **www** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **.** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **ds** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **o** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **.** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **ufl** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **.** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **edu** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **/** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **drc** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) **/** (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)). 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://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/** (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-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** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **-** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **support** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **@** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **ufl** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **.** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu) **edu** (mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- **https** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **://** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **lss** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **.** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **at** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **.** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **ufl** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **.** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **edu** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **/** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **help** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **.** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml) **shtml** (https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml)

Other resources are available at **http** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) ://** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) www** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) .** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) distance** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) .** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) ufl** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) .** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) edu** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) /** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) getting** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) -** ⧉ **(http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) help** ⧉ **(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

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/results/.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
	📝 **Module 1 Discussion Board: Video Introductions (with Peer Review) (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541646)**	due by 11:55pm
Fri Jul 6, 2018	📝 **Module 1b - Google Earth Assignment: Human-Environment Connections (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541671)**	due by 11:55pm
	📝 **Module 1a Discussion Board: Video Introductions (with Peer Review) (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550626)**	due by 11:59pm
	📅 **Module 1: Peer Reviews Due Today! by 11:55PM (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=681208&include_contexts=course_353262)**	12am
Sun Jul 8, 2018	📝 **Module 1a Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541636)**	due by 11:55pm
	📝 **Module 1b Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541638)**	due by 11:55pm

	Extra Credit - Guess Where: Mountains? (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541661)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 13, 2018	**Module 2 Activity: Guns, Germs and Steel** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541651)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 15, 2018	**Module 2: Peer Reviews Due Today by 11:55PM** (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=681207&include_contexts=course_353262)	12am
	Module 2 Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541629)	due by 11:55pm
	Extra Credit - Guess Where: Ruins? (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550876)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 20, 2018	**Module 3a Discussion Board: Revolution of Reform? (with Peer Review)** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541650)	due by 11:55pm
Sun Jul 22, 2018	**Module 3: Peer Reviews Due Today by 11:55PM** (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=681206&include_contexts=course_353262)	12am
	Module 3a Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541630)	due by 11:55pm
	Module 3b Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541639)	due by 11:55pm
	Extra Credit - Guess Where: Fort? (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550867)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 27, 2018	**Module 4b Discussion Board: An Altar for Los Muertos** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541654)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jul 29, 2018	**Module 4b Peer Reviews due today by 11:55PM!** (https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=681199&include_contexts=course_353262)	12am
	Module 4a Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541634)	due by 11:55pm
	Module 4b Quiz (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541631)	due by 11:55pm
	Extra Credit - Guess Where: Colonial City? (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541663)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 3, 2018	**Module 5b Discussion Board: Belo Monte Dam** (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541656)	due by 11:59pm

	📅 **Module 5b Discussion Board Replies due today!** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/calendar? event_id=681201&include_contexts=course_353262)**	12am
Sun Aug 5, 2018	📝 **Module 5a Quiz** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541628)**	due by 11:55pm
	📝 **Module 5b Quiz** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541635)**	due by 11:55pm
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Forest & Beaches?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550869)**	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 10, 2018	📝 **Module 6 Quiz** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541632)**	due by 11:55pm
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Water World?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541659)**	due by 11:59pm
Sat Aug 11, 2018	📝 **Gordon Rule: Position Paper on Amazon Infrastructure Plans for the Tapajos Option# 2** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550754)**	due by 6am
	📝 **Gordon Rule: Reflection Paper Option #1** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541673)**	due by 6am
	📝 **Gordon Rule: U.S. Policy on Immigration Position Paper Option #3** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541669)**	due by 6am
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Dancing Man** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541658)**	
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Dunes?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550847)**	
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Monkey?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550875)**	
	📝 **Extra Credit - Guess Where: Mountains 2?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3550873)**	
	📝 **Extra Credit- Guess Where: Street festival?** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541665)**	
	📝 **Top likes extra credit** **(https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/353262/assignments/3541675)**	