GEOGRAPHY 3RW3

Regional Geography of A Selected World Region (Latin America)

School of Geography and Earth Sciences
McMaster University
Winter 2018

Instructor: Rodrigo Narro Pérez
BSB-312
Email: narrora@mcmaster.ca
Office Hours: TBD

Lectures: Tues, Thurs & Fri, 8:30-9:20am

Course Description:

Latin America is comprised of 26 countries and dependencies with an area of approximately 19 million km$^2$ and a population over 640 million. The people of Latin America are bound by a similar cultural heritage and colonial history as well as the Romance languages that predominate the region, in particular Spanish and Portuguese. Despite this, there exists a wide range of diverse physical and cultural landscapes that define each country and region within Latin America from one another. This course acts as an introduction to Latin America, its rich history, diverse culture, and beautiful natural environment and the many ways that Canada is connected with Latin America.

The course is divided into two main components. The first will explore the physical, historical, economic, cultural and political geographies of Latin American on a regional scale. This section will touch upon the various themes that are present throughout the region such as the physical environment, development, environmental degradation, socioeconomic disparities, migration, urbanization, transnationalism, social and political movements. The second component of the course will allow students to further examine these topics by focusing on the geographies of specific countries and regions of Latin America: 1) Mexico, 2) Central America, 3) Hispanic and French Caribbean, 4) Andean States, 5) Brazil and 6) Southern Cone. Lastly, this course will also explore the ways in which the current political and economic climates have allowed for Canada to increase its ties with Latin America in an unprecedented manner through trade, foreign aid, tourism, migration, environmental and social justice as well as through culture and media.

Course Objectives

This course aims to give students the ability to fully understand:

1. The various and unique physical environments within Latin America
2. How its colonial history and its historical geography have created the cultural and social diversity found within Latin America, its people and regions
3. The similar and unique economic, social and political issues and factors that specific regions and countries within Latin America face.
Assessments:

This course will consist of one quiz, one midterm, one assignment and one final exam. **Both the map quiz and midterm will take place in-class.** This course will also contain Final Exam which will be scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. The final exam will cover all lecture and textbook readings and be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. A deferred final exam may not follow the same format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latin America Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Deliverable</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
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Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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| 1    | Jan 2 - Course Introduction  
Jan 4 - An Introduction to Latin America  
Jan 5 – Physical Geography of Latin America I |       |
| 2    | Jan 9, 11 - Physical Geography of Latin America II  
Jan 12 – Historical Geography of Latin America | Assignment will be assigned Jan 12 |
| 3    | Jan 16 - Historical Geography of Latin America I  
Jan 18, 19 - Latin American: A diverse population |       |
| 4    | Jan 23, 25, 26 – Economic Geography of Latin America | In-class map quiz will take place Feb 26 |
| 5    | Jan 30, Feb 1 & 2 Cultural Geography of Latin America |       |
| 6    | Feb 6, 8, 9 Political Geography of Latin America | Assignment Outline due Feb 8 |
| 7    | Feb 13 – **Midterm** (in-class)  
Feb 15 & 16 – Mexico |       |
| 8    | **READING WEEK** |       |
| 9    | Feb 27 – Mexico II  
Mar 1 & 2 - Central America I |       |
| 10   | Mar 6 - Central America II  
Marc 8 & 9 - Hispanic & French Caribbean |       |
| 11   | March 13, 15, 16 - Andean States I |       |
| 12   | Mar 20 Andean States II  
Mar 22 & 23 - Brazil |       |
| 13   | Mar 27, 29, 30 - Southern Cone | Assignment due Mar 30 |
| 14   | Apr 3, 5 & 6 - Latin America & Canada |       |
Course materials:

Textbook (required): TBD

Additional reading material may be posted, as required, on A2L (Avenue to Learn).

Missed or Late work

If you miss a test, quiz or term paper for a legitimate reason you must file documentation. You can report absences that last up to 5 days using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF). Please see the section titled ‘McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)’ for further information. Do not bring a doctor’s note to your instructor or T.A. The midterm will be written on February 13th. No make-up midterm will be offered. If the midterm is not completed will have the grade distributed to the final exam. No MSAF necessary.

When using the MSAF, report your absence to narrora@mcmaster.ca. You must then contact your instructor immediately (normally within 2 working days) by email at narrora@mcmaster.ca to learn what relief may be granted for the work you have missed, and relevant details such as revised deadlines, or time and location of a make-up evaluation. Please note: students who use the MSAF, but who do not contact the instructor within the 2 working days period, may not be granted any relief.

Please note that you must complete the assignment for this course and in no situation will assignment marks be reallocated to the final exam, further the MSAF is not applicable to the assignment as this is a term assignment.

Avenue to Learn (A2L)

URL: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca A2L is an online system that will be used in this class for communicating information relating to the course (e.g. lecture notes, etc.). To log in to A2L, use your MUGSI login and password. See the A2L home page above for more instructions if you need them. It is the student’s responsibility to check A2L regularly (i.e. AT LEAST twice a week) for updates.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster email accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

If you encounter any technical problems with this service go to the following website for support: http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/help/. Please note that it is not the responsibility of the teaching staff of GEOG 3RW3 to assist you with A2L issues.

Mark Appeals and A2L grades

You will have one week (i.e. 7 days) from the date that marks for an evaluation (e.g. quiz) are released to appeal your mark. All grades will be released digitally and if you wish to appeal a grade, you must send a note via email (including your name, McMaster email address, and student ID number) to the instructor stating why you wish to have the assignment looked after.
In any case, if the request is found to be insufficiently justified (e.g. simply wanting a higher mark is insufficient), the matter will not be further investigated. Remember that a resubmitted paper is entirely regarded meaning the grade can go up or down.

Your marks will be recorded on A2L. It is your responsibility to check that all marks entered into A2L are recorded properly. You must notify the instructor about any errors with regards to how your marks are entered. You have until 48 hours prior to the final exam to report any A2L mark issues.

**Student Conduct**

Students’ behaviour in all aspects of this course should meet the standards of the McMaster University Student Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate behaviour directed against any of your colleagues, T.A, or the instructor will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour during lectures will also not be tolerated.

This also means that the A2L Discussion Board is an extension of the classroom. These spaces are to be considered inclusive and safe. Abuse, ridicule, slander, inappropriate language, and discrimination towards the instructor, teaching staff, and other students will not be tolerated in any capacity. This may lead to various disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, removal of access privileges to the A2L for GEOG 3RW3.

**Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Acknowledgement of Course Policies**

Your registration and continuous participation (e.g. on A2L, in the classroom, etc.) to the various learning activities of GEOG 3RW3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. **It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly.** Lack of awareness of the course policies cannot be
invoked at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand.

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and post any changes to the course A2L). The lecture schedule is only a guideline and may be modified during the course of the class. The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their