

Geography 3670-090

Geography of Latin America

3 semester credit hours IR



3 semester credit hours BF

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Prerequisites: None

General Education Status: IR (International Requirement)

Coursework:

Six lessons, six assignments, six online discussions, and two equally-weighted exams.

Description:

Much of the world still tends to view Latin Americans in terms of stereotypes. The popular image of the mustachioed bandito wearing a large sombrero and draped with cartridge belts has been replaced by the figure of the modern-day guerrilla. But the same essential image, of lawlessness and violence, persists. The reality of Latin America's multiplicity of cultures is, in a word, complexity. The Latin realm is made up of a variety of cultural imprints. The Europeans, Africans, and Native American Indians have all contributed substantially to these cultures. This course is designed to give students a greater understanding and appreciation for the culture of Latin America in all its immense diversity.

System Requirements:

This class can be attended from anywhere there is an Internet connection. All course work can be submitted electronically, including exams. Students must be able to use an Internet browser.

Materials:

Text: Latin America and the Caribbean by David L. Clawson (Fifth or Sixth Edition) Oxford University Press.

Books may be purchased at the U Bookstore, or from the book vendor of your choice.

Grading Policy:

Average Assignment Score 50%

Discussions 20%

Exams 30%

Your grade in this class will be based on the following scale:

94-100 = A 84-87 = B 74-77 = C 64-67 = D

90-94 = A- 80-84 = B- 70-74 = C- 60-64 = D-

87-90 = B+ 77- 80 = C+ 67-70 = D+ Below 60 = E

Lessons:

The way the class is set up is that there are a number of lessons, assignments and discussions. The Assignments and Discussions can be accessed by clicking Assignments in the left hand column and the Lessons can be accessed by clicking on Modules and then Lessons. The Lessons are intended to be an introduction to a particular section of the text, they outline the chapters that are to be read for each assignment. Each Lesson corresponds to an Assignment - so you read the Lesson first, then the chapters outlined in the Lesson and move onto the Assignment with the same number. The lessons in some cases summarize important concepts in the chapters and at times they will provide information that is not found in the text.

Discussions:

To post to the discussions, click on Assignments in the left hand column and then click on Discussion 1 – there you will see a window that says “Reply”. Put your posting in the window and click on “Post Response” and it will be posted. This is an asynchronous discussion, you may not be logged in at the same time as other students in the class; however, you will be able to read other comments and add your own thoughts. You may participate in this discussion any time up to the due date. To answer the Assignment questions, you click on the Assignment number and it will take you to the Assignment and will let you begin to answer the questions.

The discussion topics may or may not follow the chapters in the text. Hopefully they will stimulate some interesting discussion and you can pull form the information you have learned thus far. I would like to see some impromptu discussions coming from those that I have set up. Please feel free to respond to your fellow students. Although this is not a traditional "chat" room hopefully, by reading other students comments you will want to respond, not only to the discussion topic, but to the student’s responses. If it takes us in another direction, that's great. That is what discussions are all about. Have fun with it! I have activated the Chat tool, so feel free to use it.

Written Assignments:

There are six web-based assignments for this course. The lessons are related to the assignments and are a summary of the important points in the corresponding chapters. The chapters to be read for the lesson and assignments are identified in the lesson. Read the lessons first, then click on Assignments in the left hand column for the assignment and it will take you to the assignment questions. The calendar will show when the assignment is due as well as the list of due dates below. The written portion of the assignments consists of 1) Short Essays of one to two paragraphs each, and /or 2) online web-based search exercises. Refer to the text and web resources, if the question asks for this, to produce an answer that includes enough detail to make sure your answer is complete and easy to follow. It is advisable that you answer the assignment questions as you complete the readings. In most lessons you have more than one chapter included in the reading assignment. It is easier to complete the answers in each chapter as you complete the reading. You are able to save partially completed assignments and return to complete them as you wish. You should not lose any information. Just click the Save button and you can return as many times as you like.

Study Guides:

The study guides are comprehensive and contain all you need to know for the exams - they are located in the Modules folder in the left hand column in another folder called Study Guides. They are being updated at the moment, I will post an announcement when they are ready to be accessed.

Study Suggestions and Assignment Preparation:

Read the Lessons.

Complete the Reading Assignment.

Scan the questions in the Written Assignments.

Re-read the assigned material being careful to learn the correct meaning of important new words.

Close your books and answer the written assignment questions in your own words. Many of the questions can be answered at great length, but you should try to organize your answers so that they are both complete and succinct. Grading is based on quality, not quantity.

Exams:

All exams will be online and each exam is worth 100 points. The exams cover material from the lessons that immediately precede it; the second exam is not comprehensive. Each exam may consist of multiple choice, short answer or essay questions, matching, definitions, and possibly a map component, which will require location of specific points on a map. All of the concepts and definitions you need to know for the exams are in the text. The exams will be available for three days, from Friday morning until Sunday night allowing students with work schedules to be accommodated. The exam duration will be 60 or 90 minutes in length and I will let you know ahead of time which it will be. Due to the exam being online, it will be considered open book. However, if you are not familiar with the information prior to the exam, you will spend too much time looking up answers, so I highly recommend staying on top of the material in the class, i.e., the assignments and discussions. Many questions will be directly related. I MUST know prior to the exam if you won't be able to take it within the scheduled time frame. I will not give any make-up exams if notified after the exam date. All make up exams will be given in the Testing Center on campus and will be closed book.

All DUE dates for Discussions, Assignments and Exams are on the Calendar and below in the syllabus. It is a good idea to put the dates on a calendar, but if not, be sure to check the calendar on this page (see above) frequently. If you are taking more than one class in Canvas, you can click on the different classes to see the due dates, or if you see them together, they will be identified by different colors.

If you have any more questions, feel free to contact me at the e-mail address above, by clicking on People in the left hand column and send me an e-mail in Canvas, or by phone at my office.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.