

GEO 352. THE GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA

Basic information:

Instructor: Dr. Kristen Conway-Gómez

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Office hours: Mondays 3:00-4:00pm, Wednesdays 11:35am-1:30pm, Thursdays 12:00-1:00pm and by appointment. I am flexible about hours, please let me know if you need to meet at another time. If my door is closed, there is a good chance that I am in the office, knock on the door and don't be shy.

Course Objective:

Latin America is an extremely important region in cultural, economic, environmental, and political terms, especially to the United States. In this class we will develop an understanding of how Latin America came to be, especially focusing on how human-environment relationships have shaped destinies. We will also try to see what direction Latin America is headed in over the future. This class will challenge you to expand your thinking about place, encourage you to intelligently disagree with readings, and hone your discussion and writing skills.

Important Instructions (How to use a syllabus and how to ace this class and many others as well):

This syllabus is your guide to this course. Within these pages you will find information on what you will be required to do for the quarter. Make sure you take the time at the beginning of the quarter to see what those things are. I also recommend that you review your syllabus at least once a week so you can keep track of where you are in the quarter; finals have a sneaky way of creeping up and it is horrible to be caught unaware. I have listed my office hours for a reason, come see me if you have questions or comments. Come on by, I will keep my office hours barring unforeseen events. Do the readings assigned before the class for which they are assigned. You will be able to put more into and get much more out of the class discussions that way.

Grading:

Tests: This class may be different from any course that you have ever taken in terms of the examination policies. Rather than being assessed after we discuss a particular part of the text you will take some of the tests on chapters before we treat the contents. Why do we do this? We do this to make sure that you have basic knowledge of the region so that we can focus on detailed relationships and cases. While I will allow you to have your notes and your books for these tests, you should have a strong knowledge of the chapters prior to sitting down to complete them. You will not have time to read the chapter and complete the assessment in the time provided. I suggest that you study the chapter and take notes so that you know where to find information that you will be asked about. These assessments will mainly test your factual knowledge about specified chapters and lectures although some short answer/essay questions may be included as well. There are two tests worth 80 points each. DO NOT MISS A TEST! These are listed on your syllabus so you have plenty of prior knowledge.

Final exam: There will be a comprehensive final exam on the date scheduled during exam week. This exam will require that you critically compile information learned throughout the course of the term. Like the section exams, this test will present both objective and subjective questions. The final exam is worth 100 points.

Focus Papers: During the quarter you will be required to turn in five one-page single-spaced focus papers (approximately 550 words). Each paper will be submitted electronically on Blackboard (<https://bbpilot.csupomona.edu/>) and will be worth twenty points for a total of 100 points. You will be graded on your thoughtful analysis of a topic or question. In addition, you will comment on each other's work, which will be worth five points for each focus paper for a total of 25 points.

Field Exercise: During the quarter there will be a field exercise assigned. This exercise is designed to make connections with the material in class & our lives outside the classroom. You will receive specific instructions for the field exercise prior to the due date.

Tourist Brochure & Final Presentation: Based on some subject that you find interesting during the course of the term you will design a virtual “tourist” brochure for some part of Latin America. The virtual brochure should highlight some oddity of Latin America that you found interesting, funny, troubling, perplexing, etc. Do not simply talk about a region or city, make sure that you have some sort of unusual angle to talk about. This is a research project. You will be graded on the high quality and synthesis of your research. The brochure is worth 80 pts and your presentation of it to the class is worth 20 pts.

Movie: The week of April 17th you will watch the movie “Quien Mato a la Llamita Blanca” and prepare a short paper (2 pages maximum) about the film. The paper should include who the main characters are, what the story of the movie is, where the movie takes place, and your reaction to the film. These papers will be graded based on high quality in terms of writing and content.

Attendance and participation: Both of these are mandatory. Involvement means that you participate in the class discussions and focus paper discussions on-line (<https://bbpilot.csupomona.edu/>). This is primarily graded through the exercises that are listed on your syllabus. But I also will notice who is in class regularly so show up and make sure I know you. Don’t assume that I will know who you are, introduce yourself, multiple times if possible. Attendance is self-explanatory. Less than adequate performance in these areas will not help your grade. If you know that you will miss a class, let me know in advance.

Grade Breakdown:

<i>Tests (2)</i>	160 pts
<i>Final Exam</i>	100 pts
<i>Focus Papers (5)</i>	100 pts
<i>Focus Paper discussion (5)</i>	25 pts
<i>Field Exercise</i>	20 pts
<i>Movie write-up</i>	20 pts
<i>Tourist brochure</i>	80 pts
<i>Final Presentation</i>	20 pts
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS:	525 pts

Grading scale:

Percentage Earned	Grade
≥90%	A
86-89%	B+
80-85%	B
76-79%	C+
70-75%	C
66-69%	D+
60-65%	D
<60%	E

Classroom Accommodations:

Cal Poly Pomona, as a learning-centered university, is committed to student success. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me privately or the Disability Resource Center (909.869.3333, Building 9 Room 103) to coordinate course accommodations.

Anti-Discrimination/Harassment Policy:

Cal Poly prohibits any form of discrimination or sexual harassment among students, faculty and staff. For further information, refer to the University catalog at <http://www.csupomona.edu/~academic/catalog/>

Withdrawal from class:

The last day to drop courses with no record is April 2, 2007.

The last day to drop a class and receive a State University Fee refund is April 3, 2007.

If a student should stop attending class, s/he will receive a WU grade on her/his permanent record.

Text:

Clawson, David L. 2006. *Latin America and the Caribbean, 4th Edition*. New York: McGraw Hill. New: ~\$89.06. There are also many used versions available from \$10.00 and up. Use addall.com, amazon.com or half.com to find these or try your luck at the bookstores.

****BE SURE YOU BUY THE MOST RECENT EDITION, WHICH IS THE FOURTH EDITION****

Websites that may help you with your brochure:

(These are only examples of the geographic information on the web. Internet resources are ALWAYS less valuable than printed resources in academic research and will not be allowed for formal papers.

Familiarize yourself with the collection at the library and use these sources for the research in the class.

CIA World Factbook.

A good source for basic information about all the countries of the world. This site will be helpful for your early familiarization with Latin America and for mapping. You may find it at the following URL:

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/> .

National Geographic.

Good reference site for more detailed information about the world. Outstanding maps. URL:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com> .

Atlademia:

Decent maps of world countries and landforms. URL: <http://www.atlademia.com>

LANIC:

The best site on the web for information related to Latin America. Maintained at the University of Texas at Austin. You could spend days here following the links provided. URL: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

NOTE- READINGS ARE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE CLASS SESSION THAT HAS THEM LISTED. PLEASE NOTICE THAT YOU WILL HAVE READ THE ENTIRE SECTION BEFORE CLASS TIME DUE TO THE FRONTLOADING OF EXAMS. YOU CAN REVIEW THE PARTICULAR CHAPTERS PRIOR TO LECTURE.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Dates	Topics to be Covered	Readings & Tests
Week 1 March 26	What is this class about? Why are you taking this class? Who are you taking the class with? Why are they taking this class? Introduction to Geography of Latin America	Chapter 1 Focus paper #1 and discussion Friday (turn in before next Friday April 6)
Week 2 April 2	Physical Geography – Landform regions, weather & climate Natural Regions	Chapters 2-3 Test –Physical Geography of Latin America Chapter 4
Week 3	Iberian Heritage	Chapters 5 & 6

April 9	Political change	Focus paper #2 and discussion Friday
Week 4 April 16	Political change cont'd	Focus paper #3 and discussion Friday
Week 5 April 23	Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	Chapter 7 Focus paper #4 and discussion Friday
Week 6 April 30	Latin American as a Culture Region	Chapter 8 Test #2 Friday
Week 7 May 7	Agriculture & Agrarian Development	Chapter 10 Focus paper #5 and discussion Friday
Week 8 May 14	Religion	Chapter 9
Week 9 May 21	Mining, Manufacturing & Tourism <u>Film: Quien Mato a La Llamita Blanca – (Mon)</u> <u>Guest Lecture - Dr. Enrique Ochoa (Wed)</u>	Chapter 11 Field Exercise –Latin American Geography of Pomona
Week 10 May 28	No class Monday – Memorial Day	Tourist brochures Due Class Presentations
Finals Week	Final Exam Wednesday June 6, 2007 9:10-11:10am FINAL EXAM—This exam will be comprehensive & reflect previous exam questions as well as demand the compilation of what was learned throughout the quarter	