

LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will:

- investigate selected themes in the geography of a region and enhance their understanding of the region;
- gain an understanding of the relationship of the physical environment in the development of settlement patterns, resources, natural hazards, etc;
- be introduced to current and past patterns of settlement and;
- develop an appreciation of the relationship between geography and current economic, political, and social problems common to the region.

METHODS:

The course will be offered in a lecture/seminar format. Lectures will introduce topics that will be explored in seminars through student discussion of assigned readings and student presentations.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check:) Yes No

METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:

Portfolio assessment, exams or other methods as appropriate.

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

Brian W. Blouet and Olwyn M. Blouet, Latin America and the Caribbean, A systematic and regional survey. (2nd Ed.)

New York: Wiley, 1993.

Paul. B. Goodwin (ed.), Global Studies: Latin America. (5th ed.) Guilford, Conn.: Duskin, 1992.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

None required

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Participation	15% (attendance, participation in discussions, and presentations)
Mid-Term Examination	25%
Final Examination	30%
Research Paper	30%

COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

Week 1 Course Introduction

Nature of course and requirements
Regional geography
The definition of Latin America
The European background of discovery

Week 2 The Physical Setting

Plate Tectonics and geology
Landforms
Climate, drainage, biogeography

Week 3 Pre-Columbian Patterns

Mature and variety in pre-Columbian America
Introduction to Aztecs, Maya and Inca cultures

Week 4 The Colonial Experience

The Spanish heritage and Spanish colonialism
The impact of history on the present-culture, regions, transportation

Week 5 Population and Settlement

Demographic trends
Rural settlement
The peasantry

Week 6 Agriculture and Culture

Agricultural systems
The milpa and the farm
Agricultural trends

Week 7 The Urban habitat

Urbanization in Latin America
Mexico City, a case study

Week 8 Mid-Term Examination 0900-1030.

Week 9 Latin America Today

Economic, political and cultural issues

Week 10 Mexico and Central America

Nafta and Mexico
Religion in Central America

Week 11 The Caribbean

Introduction to the region
The case of Cuba

Week 12 The Andean Region

Resource use, past and present

Week 13 Brazil

Does the 21st century belong to Brazil
The Amazon, a case study

Week 14 The Southern Cone

Alternative histories of Canada, Chile, and Argentina
Course Conclusions