

GEOGRAPHY 371 INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICA

Timetable: Fall Session

Lec 01 MWF 10 50 ES 162

Instructor: Dr. Denise Brown
Office: ES 444
Office hours: W 11-12 or by appointment
Phone: 220-3930
Email: dfbrown@ucalgary.ca

Teaching assistant: Emily McIntyre
Email: TBA
Office hours: TBA

Course Content:

Latin America is a diverse and vibrant region within our hemisphere. This course explores the emergence of this region as a dynamic historical geographical process. Using tools of historical, political, economic, social, and physical geography, this regional geography course explores how global and local forces interact to produce regional dynamics and local uniqueness. The goal of the course is to explore geographical factors that underlie critical issues that Latin Americans face today, including class struggle, the complexity of race and ethnicity, indigenous autonomy movements, political tension, economic crises, poverty and environmental challenges. The vehicle for this exploration will be resources and commodities of the region, such as silver, coffee, cacao, bananas, wood products, tobacco and cocaine, some of which are consumed daily by Canadians and Albertans.

Objectives: Students will:

Learn the political geography of Latin America.
Trace the origins of regional diversity.
Understand some of the political and economic processes that link Latin America to the rest of the world.
Explore the historical roots of current social challenges of the region.
Reflect on the relationship between Canada and Latin America.
Explore the global-local dialectic through the study of this region.
Explore space-time dynamics in the formation of a region.

Text: (available in the University bookstore)

From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of the World Economy 1500-2000 edited by Steven Topik, Carlos Marichal, and Zephyr Frank, Duke University Press, Durham, 2006

Plus: other assigned readings (see Blackboard)

Grading:

LEARNING PORTFOLIO

Due October 10	5%	
Due December 5	<u>30%</u>	
Subtotal		35%

TESTS

Midterm, October 24	30%	
Final (exam period)	<u>35%</u>	
Subtotal		<u>65%</u>

TOTAL

100%

Grading system:

96-100 %	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95%	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89%	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85%	B+	62-64	C		

Special Instructions:

Grades will be deducted for poor writing style (spelling, grammar).

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- If you would like to receive your assignment through the mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when you hand it in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. Please note, grades will not be available in the Geography office.

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.