

Fall 2017
Geography 423: Latin America
TTH 11:00-12:15 pm LEF 1201

Instructor: Ronald W. Luna, PhD.

E-mail: ronaldl@umd.edu (**Do not use ELMS to communicate with me**)

Office: 2181J Lefrak Hall **Office Hours:** Before or after class or by appointment

TA: Victoria Yepez

E-mail: victoriayepez60@gmail.com

Office: 1113 Lefrak Hall **Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1-2 PM or by appointment

Recommended Textbooks:

Kent, Kent B. (2006). Latin America Regions and People. The Guilford Press. New York. **ISBN-10:** 1572309091

Juan Gonzalez. (2011). Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America. New York: Penguin Press. **ISBN-10:** 0143119281

Description: Geography 423 is regional geography course designed to acquaint you with the physical and human geography of Latin America and the Caribbean. This course is organized by substantive topics rather than by country. The topics include: physical geography, natural hazards (hurricanes, earthquakes, deforestation, etc.); pre-1492 cultures; the impact of colonization; nationalism and modern political states; present demographic characteristics, globalization, migration patterns, urbanization; United States influence in the region, and economic development issues. In addition, understand how the past of Latin America has influenced the present and future of Latin America from a geographical perspective.

GEOG423 is part of the New General Education as History & Social Sciences and Cultural Competency:

It is taught in an interactive manner and you will be expected to participate fully. In this course you will be asked to think beyond your own culture, whether you are from the United States or from another country. Since we are not able to go to Latin America, videos are the next best thing, and you will be seeing a variety of them. Language is a part of cultural diversity of this course, and several of the videos are in Spanish with English subtitles.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of a **History and Social Sciences course**, students will be able to:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge on the fundamental concepts and ideas of Geography relating to physical and human foundations surrounding Latin America.
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking in evaluating historical background for migration, environmental disasters, globalization, political instability, poverty, and urbanization, and their impact on the future Latin America.
- Students will understand how historical contexts in Latin America have evolved to impact current individuals' perception and values relating to their cultural identity, and race structure.
- Students will learn to analyze the human (migration) and physical (environmental degradation) contexts of Latin America in order to recommend policies aimed at social change.

Email: Please if you send an email to the Instructor or T.A. regarding GEOG 423 please put in the subject **GEOG 423** for a quick response. I answer most emails within a 24-hour period. **Do not use Canvas to communicate with the instructor.**

Review University policies for Undergraduate Students issues listed below:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Students with special needs - I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the **Fall 2016** semester. Only written DSS documentation of the accommodation will be considered. **This form must be presented to me no later than Tuesday, September 12, 2016. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who provide me with documentation which has not been reviewed and approved by UM's DSS Office after September 12, 2016.**

Disruptive Students: Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or myself will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the "Code of Student Conduct."

Religious Observance: By **September 12, 2016**, students must provide me, in writing, a request for a make up exam for an exam date on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. Please remember that accommodations are **NOT** made for travel to and from the religious observance."

Attendance: Attendance is strongly advised at the lecture since questions on the exams will come from lecture material, films, group exercises, and reading assignments.

Discussion: There will be discussion every week and it is mandatory. If you do not attend, it is at your own risk. There will be class activities throughout the semester that will be rewarded with various participation points. **You have to be in class and participate in a positive manner to receive the points.** Your TA will set specific expectations regarding how participation points are earned in discussion. Again, if you are not present, arrive late, leave early, or do not participate, do not expect to receive full points. **All participation grades must be contested within one week of their posting.**

In my class, the student is responsible to email me **PRIOR** to class to inform me that you will not be able to attend due to illness or injury, and thus will miss the class participation/homework/exam/paper deadline. On the very next class session that you are in attendance, you must present me with a self-signed note for missing one single lecture/recitation/laboratory. This note must include the date of illness and a statement that the information you have provided is true. You must also state that if your absence is found to be false, you understand that you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. The statement must be signed and dated. Do understand that only one self-signed note for one absence will be allowed. For consecutive absences or a major assignment/exam, I will require a Health Center or medical doctor's health excuse. If you do not inform me or if you do not present me with timely documentation, 0 points will be given to you for class participation/homework/exam/paper. Note: In the case that you are unable to get a written medical excuse, you may ask your provider for a copy of your medical notes for the specific visit(s) in question.

Please review the University policy regarding attendance policies:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Attendance at lecture is ***strongly suggested. You are expected to take an active part in all class exercises. The philosophy of this course is based on *interactive learning, so be prepared to participate, learn, and think.****

College sponsored events: If you must miss class for a **college-sponsored** event, please furnish written documentation of the event.

Grading: There will be one midterm, a final exam, two individual papers, a group project, and weekly discussion activities related to the weekly lectures. You are bound by the Honor Code for all course assignments and exams. The number of points possible for each assignment is located at the end of the syllabus. ***Most written work will be due and handed in online via the course website; however, your individual TA may have different preferences. Check with your TA about expectations regarding method of turning in assignments.***

As a rule, **points will be deducted from class assignment/papers/projects returned in late at a rate of 10 points per day. No class assignments/papers/projects will be accepted after a week of the due date and will NOT be accepted via email unless prior arrangements were made with your TA.** If you need to turn in an assignment early or late please turn it in to my mailbox located in 2181J Lefrak Hall and have the front desk stamp your assignment. **General guidelines for written assignments will be outlined below, and expectations for each assignment will be clearly stated at the time the assignments are given and displayed in the course web site.**

University of Maryland Procedures for Review of alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading—Undergraduate Students
<http://www.president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/documents/policies/III-120B.pdf>

Graded Assignments: These fall into one of two categories (individual or group). For all group assignments, only your group leader should submit the assignment.

Guidelines for written assignments: You have several written assignments for this course (Research topic, article reviews, outline, bibliography, and research paper). Specific expectations and materials for each assignment will be discussed in class. However, these are the guidelines to follow:

- All assignments must be: typed or word-processed, cover page, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman style, page numbers, and with one-inch margins.
- Do not use a fancy binder. Simply **staple** the papers together in the upper left corner.
- A **cover sheet** for each assignment should be included which contains your: name, date, assignment, and title.
- Follow the guidelines for each assignment’s page/word length.
- Assignments will be graded on the following criteria: content, presentation, organization, clarity, and grammar.
- **Must include proper APA citation.**
- **If you do not follow the instruction above points will be deducted from your assignment grade.**

Proposed course schedule (subject to change, check elms.umd.edu regularly and listen for announcements during lectures):

Date	Lecture	Activity/Assignment/Discussion Topics
Aug. 29	Lecture 1: Introduction	Read the class syllabus: elms.umd.edu Class Activity: Cultural Spaces
Aug. 31 & Sept 5	Lecture 2: Physical Environment	What natural hazards have caused the greatest impact in Latin America? What is the role of humans in natural hazards? Paper 1 due on Sept. 15: How have natural hazards impacted Latin America? 1. Watch Videos by Sept. 5: Cities on the Edge https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwCABmP3uQ4 Latin Pulse: Water Crisis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhojFHnfA8E Class Activity: Natural Disasters

Sept. 7, 12	Lecture 3: Legacy of colonization Lecture 4: Independence	Read before Sept. 8: Simon Bolivar's Jamaica Letter http://www.indepthinfo.com/extended-quotes/simon-bolivar-jamaica-letter.htm - http://www.indepthinfo.com/extended-quotes/simon-bolivar-jamaica-letter.htm Why is the past still haunting Latin America? 2. Watch Video Sept 14: Black in America http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RIG4b3LV9o
Sept. 19,21,26	Lecture 5: United States Influence part I	In what ways has the United States impacted Latin America? Read the Monroe Doctrine before Sept. 21: http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=145
Sept. 28, Oct. 3,5	Lecture 5: United States Influence part II Video: Schools of the Americas: An Insider Speaks U428.A75 S35 Schools of the Americas: School of the Assassins U428.A75 S36 1996	Look at the timeline before Sept. 30: www.zompist.com/latam.html (1846-1996) www.pinzler.com/ushistory/timeline9.html (1854-1919) Paper 2 due on Oct. 6: Is the United States a friend or a foe for Latin America? 3. Watch Videos for Oct. 10: School of the Americas: School of Assassins http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMNMn3rd18Q In Whose Interest? (watch all three parts) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJ5sD_BJIuk&list=PLBE15110BD433F6A1
Oct. 10, 12	Lecture 6: Population	Where does Latin America fall in the demographic transition model? Assigned Groups for the Latin America Development Group Project
Oct. 17	Exam #1	Take Home test due on Oct 21 and in class test on Oct. 17
Oct. 19	No Lecture!!	Meet with your groups Project Planning Report due on Oct 23
Oct. 24, 26, 31	Lecture 7: Urbanization	What is the correlation between economy and population? Background Paper due on Oct 28
Nov. 2, 7	Lecture 7: Poverty Life and Debt:	What is the current state of Latin America's economy? How has the economy of Latin America changed over the

	HV6250.4.C48 L53 1992. 48 Min. (Brazil)	time? How has globalization affected Latin America?
Nov. 9, 14, 16, 21	Lecture 8: Economy and Globalization	Bring books to class Development Plan Proposal due on Nov 17 YouTube Video Link due on Nov 21 4. Watch Videos by Nov 16: Ciudad Juarez http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgfALPVnAew The Fruits of Mexico's Cheap Labor https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YT6AvAhDx8Q
Nov. 28, 30	Group video presentations in class	Make sure your whole group is present, or else your group's grade will suffer. Be ready to answer questions, participate in discussion and present your group videos. Feedback Report due Dec 2
Dec 5, 7	Lecture 9: Crime	Why crime is threatening Latin America's democracy? What is the future of Latin America? 5. Watch Video by December 2: Venezuela Collapse https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE9sbIhZpH8 Mexico Drug Cartels https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AYhn4UaHH8 Paper 4 due on scheduled exam day Dec TBD: Pick a country and select a current event (ex. Latin America's presidential elections, civil unrest, Free Trade agreements, Olympic, world cup, -gangs i.e.)
Dec 12	Last day of class	

Course Overview:

- 50 points: Paper 1
- 100 points: Paper 2
- 50 points: Group Project Video
- 25 points: Background group paper
- 30 points: Final development group paper
- 5 points: Planning group report
- 10 points: Feedback group submission
- 130 points: Paper 3
- 100 points: Exam 1 (take home component and in class component)
- 50 points: Participation

Total: 530 points

Additional Resources:

Videos:

United States and Latin America

Father Roy: Inside the School of the Americas U428.A75F28 1997. 57 Min. (Further detailed on School of the Americas)

Schools of the Americas: An Insider Speaks U428.A75 S35 1998. 17 Min.

Schools of the Americas: School of the Assassins U428.A75 S36 1996 19 Min.

Hidden Scars HV8599.L38 B37 1994. 51 Min. (Testimony of torture and migration to the United States by a Guatemalan immigrant)

The Yankees Years. F1439.5 .C75 Vol 1. 51 Min.

Castro's Challenge. F1439.5 .C75 Vol. 2. 51 Min.

Revolution in Nicaragua. F1439.5 .C75 Vol.3. 51 Min

Battle for El Salvador. F1439.5 .C75 Vol.4. 51 Min.

Fire in the Mind. F1408 .A64 1993 Pt. 9 57 Min. (Peru and El Salvador)

Latin America: Intervention in our Backyard. D727B47.1999 pt.10 30 Min.

Globalization/ Economy

Geraldo Off-line. JZ1318 .L54 2000 v.2. 24 Min. (Brazil)

Bolivian Blues. JZ1318 .L54 2000 v.27. 24 Min. (Bolivia)

The other Side JZ1318 .C58 v.14 2001. 30 Min. (Mexico)

Life and Debt. HV6250.4.C48 L53 1992. 48 Min. (Brazil)

Mexico-U.S. Free Trade Agreement Implications for the United States. HF1756 .M494 1991. 42 Min. (Mexico)

The Money Lender. The World Bank & International Monetary Fund: HG3881.5.W57 M65 1991. 88 Min.

Maquila: a tale of two Mexicos: HD8039.O33 M37 2005. 54 Min. (Mexico)

Maquilapolis:City of factories HD9734.M42 M36 2006 68 Min. (Mexico)

Migration

Abandoned: The Betrayal of America's immigrants E184.A1 A23 2000. 55 Min.

De L'autre Cote. F787 .D4 2002. 99 Min. (Mexico)

Los Trabajadores/The Workers. HD8081.H7 C68 2001. 48 Min. (Austin, Texas)

Environment

Boderline Cases: Environmental matters at the United States-Mexico Border. TD897.8.M6 C67 1997. 65 Min.

Banking on Disaster. SB418.3.B6 B36 1989. 79 Min. (Brazil)

Toxic Legacy. RA1270.P4 T66 2001. 46 Min. (Mexico)

Jungleburger. HD9433.C6 J86. 52 Min. (Costa Rica)

Rain forest. QH541.5.R27 R35. 59 Min. (Costa Rica)

Buenos Aires. TD424.4.A74 B84 14 Min.

Sao Paulo. TD424.4.B73 S36 14 Min.

Mexico City. TD424.4.M49 M49 14 Min.

Lima. TD424.4.P47 L56 14 Min.

Religion

Guadalupe: Mother of all Mexico. BT660.G8 G83 2001. 60 Min. (Mexico)

Encounter/Conquest

Fall of the Aztecs. F2229.C66 2001 Vol. 1. 60 Min.

The Conquest of the Incas. F2229.C66 2001 Vol. 2. 60 Min.

Search for El Dorado. F2229.C66 2001 Vol. 3. 60 Min.

All the World is Human. F2229.C66 2001 Vol. 4. 60 Min.

The Conquest of Mexico. F1230 .C68 1992. 35 Min.

Indigenous Always: The Legend of la Malinche and the Conquist of Mexico. F1230 .M373 2000. 57 Min.

End of a Culture. F1411 .E64 1988. 13 Min.

The Civilization of Mexico. F1210 .C577 1988 13 Min.

Bolivar: El Libertador F2235.3.B453 30 Min.

Crime

Senoritas Extraviadas: Missing Women HV6250.4.W65 S46 2001b 74 Min. (Mexico)