**GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA**

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| Rowan University |
| *Semester*:  Spring 2020 |
| *Days*:  Monday and Wednesday |
| *Time*:  Office Hours:  Monday/Wednesday  11:00am – 12:15pm |
| *Room*:  VIRTUAL |
| *Instructor*:  Mrs. Christa Pullion |
| *Instructor Email*:  [pullion@rowan.edu](mailto:pullion@rowan.edu) |

**I.** **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the physical and human geography of Latin America.  From a geographic perspective, countries of Latin America are very diverse – both physically and culturally.  Regional geography examines a particular area of the earth by investigating the properties that combine to create a distinctive space in the world.  We will begin the course by exploring the basics in terms of the physical environment, historical development and political economy.  Then, we will break into various topics and sub-regions – each of which will include the above topics plus examinations of the sociocultural aspects of the sub-regions.

Students will master the fundamentals of geography and learn to think geographically:  observing and evaluating linkages among various physical, cultural and economic factors. Students will appreciate the dynamic nature of our world and will be encouraged to explore the relationships which exist between human activity and various places on earth.

**II.      Objectives of the Course**

This is an introductory level course; students will be expected to understand the fundamental physical, cultural, political and economic geography of Latin America. By the end of this course you should be able to use basic geographic analysis to evaluate the essential cultural and political differences between the various regions.

A spatial focus will be used to locate cultural activities and search for patterns, distributions and the underlying meaning of these factors.  This course will hopefully encourage students to travel and learn.  An understanding of geographic principles can make many experiences of the world more vivid and valuable.  Each unit will highlight physical, cultural, economic and historical geography.

**III.    Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance and active participation in class are essential to successfully complete this course.  Attendance is recorded during each class.  Students are allowed two (2) unexcused absences.  Each unexcused absence after the two permitted will reduce the participation grade by one point.  Absences will be excused with a doctor’s note or in the case of a family or personal emergency.  Late arrivals and early departures will be penalized after the third arrival/departure.  Personal situations and concerns may be addressed with your instructor.

**UPDATED TO VIRTUAL**: To receive attendance credit starting Monday, March 23, students must log in to BlackBoard to review lectures and weblinks and then complete the assignments. If an assignment is not completed and submitted by the due date, the student will not receive credit for that day. Accuracy is also important. To receive credit the student must also earn at least 70% for a passing score. Anything less than 70% will not receive credit. The student may opt to try again for credit.

**IV.   Teaching Methods**

This is a lecture-based course in which class participation is required of all students.  There will be emphasis on discussion, demonstration, and question/answer.  Articles and information will be assigned via BlackBoard and in class. It is expected that students come prepared to class.

UPDATED TO VIRTUAL: Students are expected to log in during regular class hours (11:00am-12:15am.) Your instructor is available for virtual office hours during these times, or by appointment.

**V.     Materials**

Textbook

Latin America: Regions and People, 2NDEdition

Robert B. Kent

New York: The Guilford Press, 2016

ISBN: 9781462525508

Readings from each chapter will be assigned.  We will refer to the text in class.

Supplemental Readings

Supplemental readings will be handed out in class or will be available online.  It is your responsibility to properly prepare for class.  When using the internet, please use reliable, scholarly and non-biased news sources.

**VI.   Course Grading/Evaluation**

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| --- | --- |
| Exams: | 45% |
| Project | 15% |
| Maps | 10% |
| Attendance/Participation | 10% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

Exams:  There will be three (3) exams during the semester.  The average score of the exams is worth 45% of the overall grade.  The exam will be completed on BlackBoard.  Exams will be timed and will check for understanding of main ideas.  You will have sixty minutes to complete the exam in one sitting. They are due by the start of the next class period on the date listed below.  Once the due date passes there will be *no make-up exams*.  Each exam will cover concepts and principles from prior classes and will consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answers.

Project:  You will select one Latin American country on which to focus your project.  There will be a sign-up sheet.  Your project and brief presentation will be given at the beginning of the assigned class period.  This will be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation (no more than 10 slides).  An outline and rubric will be given to you.  The project is worth 15% of the overall grade.  If you miss your presentation day, there will be no make up dates available, unless special permission is given by the instructor.

Maps:  Part of understanding Latin America is having knowledge of the physical and political maps of the region. We will work on several maps and labeling activities in class.  The packet will be collected at the end of the semester; worth 10% of the overall grade.

Class Participation/Attendance:  Students can learn as much from each other as they do from the instructor.  Get involved in class:    ask questions, help each other, be prepared, and apply concepts.  You are here to learn, not to spend the time on your smartphone.  Laptops are only permitted for taking notes or reviewing PowerPoint slides from class.  Surfing the web is not an option!

Final Exam:   The final exam will be worth twenty (20) percent of the overall grade.  *There will be no make-up final exams; it is your responsibility to know the date and time of this exam.*

**Updated to Virtual:** Final exam will take place virtually during the assigned final exam period at the end of the semester. The final exam will be cumulative and found in BlackBoard.

**VII.  Academic Integrity**

The academic integrity policy can be found in detail at the following website:

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy>

It is expected that all students read and adhere to this policy.

**VIII.                       Schedule**

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| **Week**  **Dates** | **Topics** | **Assignments Due** |
| Jan 22 | Introduction |  |
| Jan 27  Jan 29 | Mapping  Country Case Study | Review Maps  Work on Country Presentation |
| Feb 3  Feb 5 | Latin America as a Culture Region | Pages 10 – 38 |
| Feb 10  Feb 12 | The Environment | Pages 39 – 58  Country presentations next week |
| Feb 17  Feb 19 | Country Presentations | -Be prepared in class with your PowerPoint presentation  -Exam 1 on BlackBoard due Feb 24 at the beginning of class |
| Feb 24  Feb 26 | The Hispanic Caribbean  Peopling Latin America to 1820 | Pages 59 – 72  Pages 73 – 96 |
| Mar 2  Mar 4 | The Mesa Central of Mexico  Early Cities and Urban Development | Pages 97 – 122  Pages 123 – 140 |
| Mar 9  Mar 11 | The Andes  Migration, Population Change, Race | Pages 141 – 167  Pages 168 – 193 |
| Mar 16  Mar 18 | SPRING BREAK |  |
| Mar 23  Mar 25 | The Central Valley of Chile  The Central American Highlands | Pages 194 – 201  Pages 202 – 224  Complete the folder in BlackBoard. Review the lectures, read the textbook and websites that are linked, and complete the review assignment. To receive attendance credit, the short assignment must be completed with at least 70% accuracy. This is due by April 6 at 11:00am. |
| Mar 30  Apr 1 | Land and People Since the Conquest  Brazil’s Atlantic Coastal Plain | Pages 225 – 259    Pages 260 – 269  Complete the folders in BlackBoard. Review the lectures, read the textbook and websites that are linked, and complete the review assignment. To receive attendance credit, the short assignment must be completed with at least 70% accuracy. This is due by April 6 at 11:00am.  **Exam 2 due April 6 at the beginning of class** |
| Apr 6  Apr 8 | Contemporary Cities and Urban Patterns  Southern Brazilian Highlands | Pages 270 – 297    Pages 298 – 320  Complete the folders in BlackBoard. Review the lectures, read the textbook and websites that are linked, and complete the review assignment. To receive attendance credit, the short assignment must be completed with at least 70% accuracy. This is due by April 13 at 11:00am. |
| Apr 13  Apr 15 | Latin American Development in Perspective  The Pampa | Pages 321 – 338    Pages 339 – 352  Complete the folder in BlackBoard. Review the lectures, read the textbook and websites that are linked, and complete the review assignment. To receive attendance credit, the short assignment must be completed with at least 70% accuracy. This is due by April 20 at 11:00am. |
| Apr 20  Apr 22 | Latin America in the World Economy  The Amazon Basin | Pages 353 – 285    Pages 386 – 405  Complete the folder in BlackBoard. Review the lectures, read the textbook and websites that are linked, and complete the review assignment. To receive attendance credit, the short assignment must be completed with at least 70% accuracy. This is due by April 27 at 11:00am. |
| Apr 27  Apr 29 | Latin American Diaspora  Conclusion | Pages 405 – 431  Pages 432 – 438  **Exam 3 due by the end of the day April 29**  **Map Activity found in BlackBoard due by May 4. Please submit in BlackBoard.** |
| Monday, May 4 | FINAL EXAM - | Found in BlackBoard; cumulative. More information will follow in an email. |

\*This syllabus is subject to change

 Use of electronic devices for reasons that are not related to the course is not permitted.

Rowan Statement of Accommodations- Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-­‐256-­‐4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

Rowan Policy regarding academic honesty:

The academic integrity policy can be found in detail at the following website:

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy>

It is expected that all students read and adhere to this policy.

Statement regarding use of the Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish - The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. In addition, utilize the RSN's scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience for advising, tutoring and more. Additional information about RSN may be found atwww.rowan.edu/rsn.

 Rowan University's Statement on Diversity

 Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other’s dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities.

 Rowan University Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Reporting, and Title IX

Rowan University and its faculty and staff are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Title IX makes it clear that sexual misconduct and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct or harassment, to the University’s Title IX Coordinator so that the appropriate resources and support options are provided. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct or harassment, Rowan encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Confidential Resources: The Wellness Center, Winans Hall, 856-256-4333, [www.rowan.edu/wellness](http://www.rowan.edu/wellness)

Non-Confidential Resources: Office of Student Equity and Compliance (OSEC), Savitz Hall 203, 856-256-5830

Public Safety, Bole Annex, 856-256-4911

Other reporting information is available here: go.rowan.edu/titleix