Master Syllabus Department of Geography

GEOG 351: Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean

Course Description

GEOG 351, Physical and cultural patterns in a diverse world region. Emphasizes population and settlement, agriculture, and environmental hazards in the context of development. (3 credit hours).

No prerequisite

Course Objectives

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the human and physical geography of Latin America and the Caribbean and will demonstrate an appreciation of the impact of this region on our own culture. Specifically students will examine: (1) the diverse physical environments and cultures characteristic of this region from a geographical perspective, (2) the rapid demographic, social and political changes taking place in the region, and (3) the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in the global economy.

Course Rationale

An understanding of and appreciation for the human and physical geography of is essential for geography students and highly desirable for educated North Americans in general. This course examines the physical aspects of Latin America and the Caribbean including physical regions, climatology, vegetation and environmental hazards. Topics in human geography include the Iberian legacy, emerging economies, political geography, regional structures of race and class, and culture.

Course Content and Format

Instruction will be in the form of lectures, multi-media presentations, projects, and class discussions. Outline of content:

Weeks 1-4

- Chapter One The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean Map quizzes
- Chapters Two through Four Physical Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Chapter Five Iberian Heritage, Conquest, and Institutions
- First Exam

Weeks 5-10

- Chapter Six Political Change
- Chapter Seven Race Ethnicity and Social Class
- Chapter Eight Latin America as a Culture Region
- Chapter Nine Religion
- Second Exam November 1

Weeks 11-16

- Chapter Ten Agriculture and Agrarian Development
- Chapter Eleven Mining, Manufacturing, and Tourism
- Chapter Twelve Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration
- Chapter Thirteen Development and Health
- Final Project and exam

Textbook (required)

Clawson, David. Latin America and the Caribbean: Lands and People. Boston: McGraw Hill. 2006.

Methods for Evaluating Student Performance

The instructor will evaluate students on the basis of examinations (multiple choice/essay) guizzes group presentations and a final project. Evaluation criteria will be distributed to students and clearly defined at the beginning of the semester.

Evaluation of the Course

Student evaluation of the course using university (and departmental) course evaluation forms.