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GEOG 351.01: Geography of South America

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA, MISSOULA
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA
GEOGRAPHY 351-01 FALL 2002

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carlos Baied, Assistant Professor
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See my homepage for more info!
http://www.cas.umt.edu/geograph/courses/baied.htm

CLASS MEETINGS: ROOM 362 Social Science Building
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY 11:10 AM - 12:00 PM

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday and Friday after class, Wednesdays 2:15–3:15 PM,
AND by appointment in 204 Social Science Building

COURSE OVERVIEW:

In this course students will gain a broad knowledge of the South American region, its lands, peoples, and current socio-political, economic, and environmental issues. It will provide the basis for understanding current events. Lectures will follow a historical-geographical perspective. Combining textbook readings, journal articles, videos, slides, and discussions, students gain an appreciation of regional cultural diversity, an understanding of the dynamics of South American regional integration, and the role of South America in the world. This is an exciting and stimulating course that will broaden your knowledge and understanding of your individual role in the world and of relationships between different societies and countries in the region. We will sample in greater detail two distinctive ecological subregions as greater concentration will be given to the Andean region of Peru, Bolivia, northern Chile and northwestern Argentina, and also to the tropical Amazon Basin.

This course meets for three 50-minute lectures per week (for 3 credits). Lecture material will be facilitated with overheads, slides, films, and handouts. Lectures will not be a reduction of the assigned book chapters or articles but rather they will amplify the different themes and sometimes offer a different interpretation of that in the core books and articles. I will assume that all students interested in this class will find ways to read ahead about the general content of the lectures. Specific reading assignments will be given and class discussion will be extensive.

EXPECTATIONS AND READINGS:

There is a core text for this course and an additional book on the Columbian exchange to better deal with the role of human impact and landscape change in South and Latin America over the last 500 years. A set of additional readings will be available for photocopying and further reading. They will be placed on reserve at Mansfield Library. A basic course bibliography and suggested readings follows at the end of this outline. Reading assignments have been selected from a number of different publications, some available at Mansfield Library. The texts can be bought from The Bookstore at UM.
The texts are:


ALSO, a couple of maps (National Geographic Society) are already available at The Bookstore for purchase.

**EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING:**

In order to foster analysis, classes will revolve around major concepts and themes that I will introduce. I expect all students to read ahead and be ready not only for questioning me but also to be questioned by me on the assigned readings. In addition, the final phase of the course will center on students’ presentations of their own research with a follow-up by discussion by all of us and my suggestions to improve the written term-paper. Details about this assignment will follow.

There are, however, some details to consider before we move ahead: I NEED TO SEE a short, two-paragraph, term-paper proposal laying out the theme and issue/s you want to deal with before you actually move ahead on your research. I will meet separately with each of you to discuss the proposal and APPROVE it. The term paper will allow you to expand your knowledge on a topic, issue, region, or area of your choice. You are free to choose a topic that really interests you. If you need help with this task just stop by my office in 204 Social Science Building to discuss potential themes for the term paper. We will schedule this assignment as soon as we have a better idea of final enrollment, but I would like to know and see (in writing) your choice of topic/theme by October 15.

Also, THREE EXAMS will be given following a mixed essay type/multiple choice-true-false format. Each exam will be preceded by a synthesis of the material covered during previous classes and a review of key concepts, ideas and issues. Bring questions and doubts to the review so you are really ready for the exams. NO FINAL EXAM will be given.

**Grading Policy:**

You will be assessed in three areas: class participation (assistance, questions, real interest), three exams, a short term-paper, and the oral presentation of your paper. The final grade will be based as follows based on performance in the above mentioned areas and as a percentage of the final grade:

| Exam 1 | 10% | Term paper (written version) | 30% |
| Exam 2 | 10% | Term paper (oral presentation) | 20% |
| Exam 3 | 10% | Participation | 20% |

*Participation points* – you’ll get them all if you come to class (two absences are free – but not on exam days or on your oral presentation days!); if you do assignments on time; if you engage fully in discussions and demonstrate a commitment to improving your reasoning abilities in your writing and speaking.
COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY AND READINGS

Some of the following suggested readings will be distributed in class OR held on reserve at Mansfield Library. Those distributed and on reserve are OBLIGATORY READINGS for this course. ALL students are expected to read ahead assigned materials for commenting, discussing, and to be questioned. Again, READING AHEAD IS A MUST for this course.

Introduction to Latin America and Key Concepts:


Population, Population Growth and Health Issues:


Rural-regional migration and urbanization:


**Agricultural systems:**


**Wildlife, forests and biodiversity:**


**New democracies, economic development and the environment:**


**Environmental issues, sustainable development & the environmental movement:**


