

Professor Kate Berry
University of Nevada, Reno
Fall Semester 2006

GEOGRAPHY 476 LATIN AMERICA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is concerned with the geography of Latin America, focusing on South America, Central America, and Mexico. Our attention will be directed at the ways in which individuals, communities, states, and international forces have created and, in turn, be transformed by the landscapes and places of Latin America. We will also consider how the physical environment and spatial distributions of resources and urbanization influence migration patterns, economics and family and ethnic identities. The focus will be on contemporary conditions and the geographic influences that have given rise to these conditions.

SCHEDULE

This course will meet from 9am to 10:45pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Mackay Science Room 321. I encourage you to discuss any aspect of the course with me during my office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to noon or, if you prefer, you can make an appointment to meet with me. My office is in Mackay Science room 302. I can also be reached at my email address kberry@unr.edu or by phone at 784-6344.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading for this course will include letter grades with the possibility of a plus or a minus (so, for example, it is possible to get a C+ or an A-). Your grade for this course will be based on the following items:

100 points	Attendance
100 points	Participation
800 points	Assignments
1,000 points	TOTAL possible

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend each scheduled class period. If for some reason, you are unable to attend a class period you may want to contact a classmate to get notes for the missed class but remember, it is more difficult to absorb material from another person's notes than it is to understand materials presented while you are in class. If you miss a class, contact me to let me know about your situation. Each missed class will count against your attendance score and will obviously effect your participation as well.

I expect active involvement by students throughout this course. Feedback and discussion are important to understand and assimilate the materials presented in this course. Do not hesitate to ask questions or contribute comments on the readings, lectures or assignments at the appropriate time. I may question you about the readings, previous lectures and discussions to insure that these materials are absorbed.

READINGS

The books for this course are:

My Car in Managua by F. Colburn

Is Geography Destiny? Lessons from Latin America by J.L. Gallup, A. Gaviria and E. Lora

These books should be available for purchase in the ASUN Bookstore. There are also many assigned readings available at the course WebCT. Reading assignments should be completed before the assigned class. Assigned readings are important as they will often form the foundation for class discussions, assignments, and examinations.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

There will be eight graded assignments. Detailed instructions will be provided for each assignment. These assignments are aimed at developing skills in writing, verbal presentation, visual communication, synthesis, judgment and regional understanding.

OTHER INFORMATION

If you have a disability and will be requiring special assistance, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Ste. 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
August 29	Course overview	-----
August 31	Introduction to the region	Latin America: myth & reality (WebCT) Hernandez on groundwater (WebCT)
September 5	Introduction to Mexico	Mexico overview (WebCT)
September 7	Introduction to Brazil	-----
September 12	More on South America	South America overview (WebCT)
September 14	Central America	Central America overview (WebCT)
September 19	Travelers' perspective on life & place	<i>My Car in Managua</i> , p. 1-58
September 21	Nicaraguan places	<i>My Car in Managua</i> , p. 59-134
September 26	Indigenous rights & water mgt in Chile	Davis on ind. water rgts. (WebCT)
September 28	Hydropower & human rights in Honduras	Bonta on hydropower (WebCT)
October 3	Natural gas 'war' in Bolivia	Perreault on Gas wars (WebCT)
October 5	Deforestation in Amazonia & the Yucatan	Stewart on <i>After the trees</i> (WebCT)
October 10	<i>La Familia</i> & collective identity	DeBray on <i>I, Rigoberta</i> (WebCT)
October 12	Education & racism in Bolivia	Canessa on schools (WebCT)
October 17	Indigenous identity in rural Peru	Engelbert on the Q'ero (WebCT)
October 19	NGOs & identity in Ecuador	Laurie on social mvts. (WebCT)
October 24	Urbanization & global change	CCG2 unit 1 (WebCT)
October 26	Migration & urban growth	CCG2 unit 2 (WebCT)
October 31	Land use change in Quito, Ecuador	Ryder on residential dev (WebCT)
November 2	Celebrating <i>Dia de los Muertos</i> in Mexico	Mexico, haunted by ghosts (WebCT)
November 7	Rural-urban migration	-----
November 9	Identities of urban migrants in Peru	Paerregaard on migrants (WebCT)
November 14	International migration	-----
November 16	Informality in the urban setting	CCG2 unit 3 (WebCT)
November 21	No Class	-----
November 23	No Class	-----
November 28	Revisiting regional geography	<i>Is Geography Destiny?</i> Intro
November 30	Latin Am from an internat. perspective	<i>Is Geography Destiny?</i> ch. 1
December 5	Influence of geography within countries	<i>Is Geography Destiny?</i> ch. 2
December 7	Overcoming geography?	<i>Is Geography Destiny?</i> ch. 3
December 12	Final class – wrap up	-----