

Caleb Richter-Tate, Instructor

Office: DSC 245A

Office Hours: M, W 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Textbook:

Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic and Regional Survey, 6th Edition. Brian W. Blouet (College of William and Mary), Olwyn M. Blouet (Virginia State Univ.) September 2009, ©2010

An atlas is highly recommended. Suggested—Goode’s World Atlas

Readings:

All readings will come from the assigned text book or from journal articles that are available online. Specific pages and articles to read for class will be assigned one class prior. Students are encouraged to read all assigned material and be ready and able to discuss in class.

Place Names:

There will be two lists of place-names provided for studying throughout the semester, one list for Mexico and the other list for Central America and the Caribbean. There will be a short section of place-name identification on each exam.

Exams:

There will be three (3) exams throughout the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points and consists of name-place identification, multiple choice, short answer, and essays. There will be three main section exams and the final will not be comprehensive.

Book Review or Group Project:

All students must chose one (1) book and have it approved by the instructor. Read the book and then write a three to four (3-4) page review of the book. Paper must be between 3 and 4 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman text, and 12 point font. The book review is worth 100 points, and it is due three (3) weeks before the final class.

or...

All students will divide into groups and choose an instructor approved topic. Groups will have limited in-class time to research their topic so this option will require meeting with your group outside of class time. Each group will give a lesson on their topic (30-45 min.) Each student will be graded individually and on group presentation (100 pts total).

Grading:

There will be 300 points from exams, 100 points for the book review or group presentation, and 200 points for participation and in-class discussion, for a total of 600 points throughout the semester. The UNO standard grading guidelines will be observed. There **may be** extra credit available if the student makes arrangements with the instructor. Students that are engaging, exhibit critical thinking, and provide **well thought out** discussion questions will receive full participation points. Participation in the in-class discussions is strongly encouraged.

Class Focus and Outline:

This course will focus on the evolution, contrast, and development of human landscapes throughout Middle America and the Caribbean. These landscapes have been influenced by indigenous histories, European contact and culture, western development, regional conflicts, and peace resolutions.

- I. Intro: Historical Background and Contextual Setting (Ch. 1-6)
 - a. Human diversity, background, and terms
 - b. Physical diversity, historical places
 - c. General outlook, trends, and tendencies of Middle America
- II. Caribbean Landscape: Past, Present, and Direction (Ch. 8)
 - a. Historical, political, and economic geography
 - b. Specific islands and their character
 - c. Current development trends and direction
- III. Central America: Past, Present, and Future (Ch. 10)
 - a. Main features, past, direct and indirect political and military involvement by U.S.
 - b. Northern Part
 - c. Southern Part

Exam # 1: around mid-term week

- IV. Mexico and the Evolution of Cultural Landscape (Ch. 3)
 - a. Pre-Hispanic Mexico
 - b. Conquest
 - c. Colonial influence on landscape, economy, and politics

Exam # 2: Before Spring Break

- V. Modern Mexico (Ch. 9 and selected Journal Articles)
 - a. Landscape, politics, economy, and development trends
 - b. NAFTA, the border, Zapatistas, and Social Movements
 - c. Immigration and the Drugs

Exam # 3: Finals week at assigned time

Tentative Reading Schedule:

January

13: Course syllabus, Ch. 1-3

15: Ch. 1-3

20: No Class--MLK Day

22: Ch. 8, Boundaries

27: Ch. 4, Security

29: Ch. 10 & Ch. 11 pp305-315, Criminal

February

3: Coercion, **Review Exam #1**

5: **Exam #1**

10: Pre-Colonial, Personality

12: Colonial, Camino Ch. 1 & 2

17: Ch. 6, Economic Development

19: Independence, Process

24: Transition, Liberalism

26: Revolution

March

3: **Review Exam #2**

5: **Exam #2**

10: Ch. 9, Mexican Politics

12: NAFTA

17: NAFTA

19: Ch. 5, Labor and Migration

24: **Spring Break—No Class**

26: **Spring Break—No Class**

31: Labor and Migration

April

2: Drugs and Cartels

7: Drugs and Cartels, (Book Review Due)

9: Drugs and Cartels

14: Agriculture

16: Agriculture

21: Social Movements

23: Social Movements

28: Social Movements

30: **Review Exam # 3**

May 3-9: Finals Week

May 5:Final Exam #3

Name-Place List:

Bahamas
Havana
Cuba
Jamaica
Haiti
Dominican Republic
Puerto Rico
Lesser Antilles
Aruba
Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Mexico
Panama
Panama Canal
Costa Rica
Nicaragua
Lake Managua
Lake Nicaragua
Honduras
El Salvador
Guatemala
Belize
Mexico
Merida
Mexico City
Guadalajara
Monterrey
Lake Chapala
Ciudad Juarez
Nogales
Tijuana
Cabo San Lucas
Gulf of California
Pacific Ocean
All Mexican States and Capitals