

# Geog388 — Regional studies: Latin America and the Caribbean (Spring 2015)



Section / number	A02 / CRN 21656
Term	Jan 5 to April 2 2015
Time	Tue, Wed, Fri 9:30 – 10:20am
Room	COR B111
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Bernard Henin, Dr.</b>
Office	SSM B208 (office hours: TBA)
Telephone	250.853.3275
E-mail	bhenin@uvic.ca
Course website	<a href="http://coursespaces.uvic.ca">http://coursespaces.uvic.ca</a>

## Course description and objectives

This course studies the physical and human characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean region. The emphasis is on Hispanic America and Brazil. Topics of focus include culture, physical environment, demographics, urbanization, development and environmental issues. The course adopts a critical perspective of economic strategies and social development in the region. It illustrates the development challenge in the region through case studies.

The objective is to develop an understanding of change in Latin America and the Caribbean as the result of globalization and development policies from a geographical perspective. A more general goal is to develop skills of critical analysis in regional geography.

## Textbooks and course materials

Clawson, David L. 2012. *Latin America and the Caribbean*, fifth edition. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

## Additional readings

A number of supplementary readings for each course topic will be announced. They will be available on the Web or in the course reserve in the main library. Lecture summaries have been placed on the website for the course. They contain the list of readings assigned to each topic.

## Videos

A number of videos will be shown in class to illustrate the course material and stimulate discussions in class. Most of these videos are available on-line.

## Performance evaluation

### Tests in class

Four one-hour tests on the material covered in lectures will be held in class. Each test will be on a specific number of topics. See [course timetable](#) for test material, dates and times.

Important note: Students must write the tests at the scheduled dates. A test can only be skipped in case of emergency and on special agreement with the instructor. In this case, a special arrangement will be made.

### Term paper

You will research an issue related to the content of the course and write a term paper based on this research. The paper should be a critical essay on the topic chosen.

### Short presentation

This exercise consists in presenting the essence of your research to the class at the end of the term. You will have 5 minutes to present the issues investigated and your research objectives (4 PPT slides allowed). The presentations are scheduled for the last three days of classes (see timetable).

***The research paper and presentation assignments are described on the webpage for the course (Moodle). Consult the write-ups for details.***

***Note: You must hand in a valid paper to pass the course.***

## Evaluation scheme

4 tests in class (midterms)	Total: 60% (15% each)
Term paper	35%
Short presentation (of term paper)	5%
Total	100%

## Course syllabus

Topic 1. Latin America as a culture region

Topic 2. Physical environments

Topic 3. A historical geography of Latin America

Topic 4. Political change

Topic 5. The people: population change, ethnicity and race

Topic 6. Latin American cities

Topic 7. Land and agriculture

Topic 8. Resources, manufacturing and trade

Topic 9. Human development, human rights and inequality

GEOG 388 — COURSE OUTLINE

## Schedule of activities

Week	Date (Tue)		Date (Wed)		Date (Fri)	
1	Jan 6		Jan 7	<b>Topic 1</b>	Jan 9	<b>Topic 1</b>
2	Jan 13	<b>Topic 1</b>	Jan 14	<b>Topic 2</b>	Jan 16	<b>Topic 2</b>
3	Jan 20	<b>Topic 2</b>	Jan 21	<b>Topic 3</b>	Jan 23	<b>Test 1: Topic 1 &amp; Topic 2 (15%)</b>
4	Jan 27	<b>Topic 3</b>	Jan 28	<b>Topic 4</b>	Jan 30	<b>Topic 4</b>
5	Feb 3	<b>Topic 4</b>	Feb 4	<b>Topic 5</b>	Feb 6	<b>Test 2: Topic 3 &amp; Topic 4 (15%)</b>
6	Feb 10	<b>BREAK</b>	Feb 11	<b>BREAK</b>	Feb 13	<b>BREAK</b>
7	Feb 17	<b>Topic 5</b>	Feb 18	<b>Topic 5</b>	Feb 20	<b>Topic 6</b>
8	Feb 24	<b>Topic 6</b>	Feb 25	<b>Topic 6</b>	Feb 27	<b>Topic 6</b>
9	Mar 3	<b>Test 3: Topic 5 &amp; Topic 6 (15%)</b>	Mar 4	<b>Topic 7</b>	Mar 6	<b>Topic 7</b>
10	Mar 10	<b>Topic 7</b>	Mar 11	<b>Topic 8</b>	Mar 13	<b>Topic 8</b>
11	Mar 17	<b>Topic 8</b>	Mar 18	<b>Topic 8</b>	Mar 20	<b>Topic 9</b>
12	Mar 24	<b>Finish topics / review</b>	Mar 25	<b>Test 4: Topic 7, 8, 9 (15%)</b>	Mar 27	<b>Presentations</b>
13	Mar 31	<b>Presentations</b>	Apr 1	<b>Presentations (5%)</b>		
Tuesday, April 7		<b>Paper (35%) due 12:00pm (by Email) — Can be sent at an earlier date, but late papers will not be accepted.</b>				

## Performance report

The instructor will provide students with an updated report on their performance on a regular basis. Students are advised to consult the instructor before the last withdrawal day to ensure all available options have been reviewed.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism in writing term papers will not be tolerated. Plagiarism detection software will be used in case of doubt.

## Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## Positivity and safety

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

## Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## Geography undergraduate grade scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
90-100%	85-89%	80-84%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	65-69%	60-64%	50-59%	0-49%

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## Geography Department information

Geography Department website: <http://geography.uvic.ca>  
GEOPLAN degree planning guide: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/moodle> [Log in as a guest]  
Undergraduate Advising: contact main office (SSM B203) at [geoginfo@uvic.ca](mailto:geoginfo@uvic.ca) or 250.721.7327  
Graduate Advisor: Maycira Costa ([maycira@uvic.ca](mailto:maycira@uvic.ca))