

GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA (GEA 3410)

Fall Semester 2005

jondewitt@aol.com

Instructor: Dr. John DeWitt

Office: 3142 Turlington

Phone: 392-0494

This course is designed to provide an updated image of South America to serve as a good foundation for students who want to understand that continent and its multifaceted realities. Given the specialization areas of the instructor the history, population and economic development of each region, as well as the natural landscapes of the continent, are dealt with in an interdisciplinary manner that allows use of concepts acquired in other Latin American courses.

Materials presented in class are derived from the experience and research of the instructor. Most viewpoints and perspectives are included in the textbook. Slides, posters and other illustrative material are presented to supplement the textbook. Students should attend all classes to take notes and participate in discussions.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART I

Preface – Introduction

Chapter 1 – Shaping the Image of a Continent

Chapter 2 – The Natural Environment

Chapter 3 – The Natural Regions of South America

Chapter 4 – The Peoples of South America

PART II

Chapter 5 – Strategies for Agricultural Subsistence

Chapter 6 – South America in the World Economy

Chapter 7 – Settlement Networks and Urban Systems

PART III

Chapter 8 – The South American States: Origin and Relations

Chapter 9 – Cultural and Ecological Survival

Conclusions

TEXTBOOK: Caviedes and Knapp, South America, Prentice Hall, First Edition, 1995

EXAMINATION FORMAT

The exams demand careful writing and proper use of language in accordance with the Gordon Rule nature of this course. The exams consist of “short answer” questions and two essays in which writing skills and comprehension of the material must be demonstrated. Exam books (Blue Books) and ballpoint pens are required for each exam.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1st Exam: 30%, Material from Part I Date: 4 October

2nd Exam: 30%, Material from Part II Date: 8 November

Final Exam: 40%, Material from Part III plus selected sections of previous chapters Date: Exam Code 15c, 1230 PM – 230PM, Thursday December 15.

There will be no makeup exams except in cases of serious emergencies.

Class will be held in room 2306 on Tuesdays and 2319 on Thursdays

BOOKS ON RESERVE

Arthur Morris, South America (1982); Cesar Caviedes, The Southern Cone (1984); David Clawson Latin America and the Caribbean (1996); Preston James, Latin America; John DeWitt, Early Globalization and the Economic Development of Brazil and the United States (2002).

Class will be held in room 2306 Turl on Tuesdays (periods 8 and 9) and 2319 Turl of Thursdays (period 9).

Office hours will be 2 PM to 3 PM on Tuesdays and 2 PM to 4 PM on Thursdays.

