

(GEA 6419) GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA

Fall Semester 2005

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South America as a distinct geographical unit is the subject of this course. The different regions of the continent will be stressed. A few specific country descriptions will be presented as case studies. The dynamic forces shaping landscapes are discussed. Economic development and demography are emphasized. 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.

This course is tailored to the needs of graduate students. Material presented in class is the same as that presented to the advanced undergraduates but graduate students are expected to develop a deeper understanding of South America. Information acquired in other classes combined with personal experiences (travel, research, work experience) should complement what is presented in class. Each graduate student will prepare a research paper on a subject chosen in consultation with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

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: Cavedes 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: 25%, Material from Part I Date: 4 October

2nd Exam: 25%, Material from Part II Date: 8 November

Final Exam: 35%, Material from Part III plus selected sections of previous chapters Date: Exam Code 15C'
1230 PM – 230 PM, Thursday December 15.

Term Paper: 15% (20 pages on a subject chosen by student in consultation with the instructor.
Or other project to be determined in consultation with instructor.)

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

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.