

**Geography 4365: Topics in  
Geography Latin American  
Geography  
MW 2:30 to 3:55 PM  
Spring 2021**

**Online-Synchronous  
You must participate in the course via Zoom  
Please contact me if you have poor/intermittent internet connection**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/97305947474?pwd=NHExMW42a29VNDMvZUJMbCtmVi9wZz09>

Passcode: **56789**

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: MW 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Via Zoom link:

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/92671224054?pwd=dUpjV2VGMk1YUDUvd2JuZG9UN2R6QT09>

Passcode: **56789**

Or by appointment

E-mail: [esills@uttyler.edu](mailto:esills@uttyler.edu) ph:903-566-7442

**Communications:** I encourage you to visit office hours or directly after class via zoom. This is a good opportunity for you to look over your exams, ask questions, or seek clarification. If you cannot attend my office hours you may set-up an alternative time. I will respond to your emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. **In your email, include your first and last name and that you are enrolled in Geography 4665.**

All of us, including myself, will need to be **flexible** this semester because of the coronavirus. If you are sick and cannot attend a class that is okay. All I ask, is that you communicate with me. If I get sick with Covid, you will be notified by email and I will send you a contingency plan. I understand that some students will be using their computers at home or in non-traditional locations with more distractions than an in-person class. If this happens (i.e. parent walks in, animal jumps on lap, or kid will not let you work, bad internet connection) do not be embarrassed or worried. I understand. Everyone is having to adjust to new ways of learning and working right now. I too will have distractions when I am teaching, especially from home.

**Required texts:**

1. Placing Latin America, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Edited by Edward L. Jackiewicz and Fernando J. Bosco. Rowman and Littlefield. This book is available online at the UT Tyler library. Only three students can use this book at one time. However, you can download and save sections of the book.
2. A Beauty That Hurts: Life and Death in Guatemala, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Author: W. George Lovell. University of Texas Press.

**Catalogue description:** Studies in geography to include such topics as historical geography, economic geography, and cultural geography. May be repeated once for credit when topic varies.

**Course learning objectives:** The objectives of the course are:

- (1) Apply geographic terms to Latin America and Caribbean regions.
- (2) Differentiate the physical and cultural geography of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (3) Demonstrate how the regions are integrated.
- (4) Evaluate historical and contemporary issues.
- (5) Consider the variable urban, political, economic, physical, and cultural geographic issues.

**Course format:** Class lectures and discussions will be supplemented by the required text, assigned readings, current events, videos, demonstrations, and guest lectures. Lectures and readings will not necessarily cover the same ground. Indeed, they are intended to supplement each other rather than to completely overlap. Starting on January 27th, all

students must participate in the class discussions. You will be graded based on your participation. I strongly recommend that you attend every lecture and carefully study the assigned readings. I encourage relevant questions and comments during the lecture. A question you have other students might also have, and thoughtful remarks will make the course more interesting for everyone, including myself.

**Class Etiquette:** I expect everyone in the classroom to be **respectful** of each other and treat everyone with dignity – each of us brings different opinions and experiences some of these might be dissimilar to your own. I expect comments to be positive and objective and not judgmental and rude.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on two exams (mid-term and final), one group discussion lead, participation (attendance and discussion), a domesticated food assignment, and a research project (proposal, paper, and presentation).

**Exams:** The exams will cover material from class including slides, discussions, presentations, guest lectures, readings, and videos. The midterm will cover material from the first part of the course; the final will cover material from the second part of the course including the presentations. Exams will be taken online and could include multiple choice, true/false short answer, and essay questions dealing with major issues raised in the course.

**Group Discussion Lead:** Each student will be required to participate in a group to lead the class in a discussion about the assigned readings. I will announce and post a sign-up sheet during the second week of class. In order to facilitate the discussion, each group will be required to turn in at least 8 questions and/or comments over the readings in order to facilitate the discussions. Specific instructions will be posted on the class Canvas site. See the attached schedule for discussion dates.

**Research Proposal, Paper, and Presentation:** Each student will research, write, and present a 8-10 page paper over a current issue in Latin America. You can find topics by reading the newspaper, listening to NPR, visiting the CIA World Factbook site, the class Canvas home page rss feed, or a list of topics given to you by your instructor. Detailed instructions will be posted on the class Canvas site. See the attached schedule for the due date.

**Class Discussion Participation and Attendance:** Students are expected to complete the readings for each class period and to participate in class discussions about the readings. Every student is expected to turn in at least three questions and/or comments at the beginning Discussion Sessions 1-4 (see the schedule for dates). These questions should be typed. Your participation grade will be partially based on these discussion sessions. **If you need help with this component, please ask me for further details. I will not accept late discussion questions and comments.**

**Make-up Policy:** Make-up tests will be given with a legitimate reason and in rare circumstances. Students should contact the instructor **prior** to the exam and not after if they will miss the exam. Make-up exams will not be given except when there are exceptional circumstances (be prepared to provide documentation of your circumstance, such as a doctor's note, police report, University-excused absence, *et cetera*). Ten points will deducted each day for late projects.

**Incidence of Scholastic Dishonesty: You will receive an automatic zero on the assignment. All cases of plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic zero for the assignment.**

**Course weights:**

Mid-term: 22%

Final: 22%

Group Discussion Lead: 9%

Research Paper Proposal: 5%

Research Paper: 25%

Presentation: 5%

Class Discussion Participation: 12%

**Total: 100%**

- Extra Credit Class Attendance: 3 points added to your final grade (you may miss up to 3 unexcused classes)

- Grading scale:      A    90-100%                      B    80-89.99%                      C    70-79.99%  
                                    D    60-69.99%                      F    0-59.99%

**Cell Phones/Lap tops:** Turn off your ringer and do not use your cell phone during class – this includes text messaging. If you are expecting an important call please put your phone on vibrate and sit close to the door. This action will help minimize any disturbance to the class. **I will not be recording this class. Any video, photographic or audio recordings of the class must be approved by me.**

### **Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories**

Students are required to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth, and follow social distancing guidelines, at all times in public settings (including classrooms and laboratories), as specified by Procedures for Fall 2020 Return to Normal Operations. The UT Tyler community of Patriots views adoption of these practices consistent with its Honor Code and a sign of good citizenship and respectful care of fellow classmates, faculty, and staff.

Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu.

### **Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

### **UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at

<http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

### **State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Like so many things this Fall, the need for accommodations and the process for arranging them may be altered by the COVID-19 changes we are experiencing and the safety protocols currently in place. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible, to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. During the Fall 2020 semester, SAR will be conducting all appointments via ZOOM. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> or call 903.566.7079.

### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor), must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

### **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu

- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

**What we cover in the lecture on a day-to-day basis may differ from the attached schedule. I will inform the class via email if topics change.**

## Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Tentative Lectures and Activities	Tentative Readings
1	M	11-Jan	Mapping the Course/Introductions	Syllabus
1	W	13-Jan	Lecture: Defining the Region	Placing Latin America Introductory Chapter
2	M	18-Jan	<b>NO CLASS MLK Day!</b>	
2	W	20-Jan	Lecture: Physical Environments <b>Sign-up for Discussion Lead</b>	Placing Latin America Chapter's 1 and 7
3	M	25-Jan	Lecture: Ancient Landscapes <b>Census Day</b>	Placing Latin America Chapter 2 pgs. 25-26.
3	W	27-Jan	<b>Discussion 1: Ancient Landscapes</b>	On Canvas "1491" by Charles Mann, "The Pristine Myth" by William Denevan, and "Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day" Jake Flanagin
4	M	1-Feb	Lecture: Historical Landscapes	Placing Latin America Chapter 2 pgs. 27-38
4	W	3-Feb	<b>Due: Paper Topic</b> Paper Topic Discussion Lecture: Economic Fundamentals	No readings
5	M	8-Feb	Lecture: Economics of Latin America	Placing Latin America Chapter 3
5	W	10-Feb	Lecture: Geopolitics	Placing Latin America Chapter 5
6	M	15-Feb	Lecture: Geopolitics Continued	Placing Latin America Chapter's 9 and 10
6	W	17-Feb	<b>Discussion 2: Economic Systems and Globalization</b>  Mid-term open on Canvas at 3:50 pm	On Canvas "Chapter 3: Cycles of Economic Change" by Edward L. Jackiewicz and Linda Quiquix, Chapter 8: Drug Geographies" by Kent Mathewson, "Adios. Monroe Doctrine" by Jorge Castaneda, and Bananas Esri Story board (see link on Canvas)

7	M	22-Feb	Film	No Readings
7	W	24-Feb	Mid-term due online (no class) at midnight <b>No Class</b>	No Readings
8	M	1-Mar	Lecture: Rural to Urban	Placing Latin America Chapter 4
8	W	3-Mar	Lecture: Latin American Cities	Placing Latin America Chapter 11 and 12
	M	8-Mar	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>	No Readings
	W	10-Mar	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>	No Readings
9	M	15-Mar	Discuss Papers and Presentations Lecture: Guatemala Case Study	A Beauty That Hurts: Prologue
9	W	17-Mar	<b>Discussion 3:</b> A Beauty That Hurts	A Beauty That Hurts Part 1
10	M	22-Mar	<b>Discussion 4:</b> A Beauty That Hurts	A Beauty That Hurts Part 2
10	W	24-Mar	Lecture: Indigenous Land Rights	A Beauty That Hurts Part 3
11	M	29-Mar	Lecture: Tourism	Placing Latin America Chapter 6
11	W	31-Mar	Lecture: Caribbean Contrasts	
12	M	5-Apr	Film	No readings
12	W	7-Apr	Current Topics: The US Mexico Border/Immigration from Central America	Placing Latin America Chapter's 13, 14, and 15
13	M	12-Apr	<b>No Class: Finish Paper</b>	No Readings
13	W	14-Apr	Final Paper Due on Canvas at 2:30 pm Start Presentations	
14	M	19-Apr	Presentations	
14	W	21-Apr	Presentations/ <b>Final Open on Canvas at 3:50 pm</b>	
15	M	26-Apr	<b>No Class: Study Day</b>	
15	W	28-Apr	<b>FINAL EXAM Due Online at midnight</b>	