

Geography 43625 Latin American Geography
MW 2:30 to 3:55 PM
CAS 210
Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. E. Cory Sills, Associate Professor

Office: CAS 142

Office hours: MTW 1:00 to 2:00 pm

In Person, By Appointment or

Via Zoom link:

<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/88340172633?pwd=T0ZkYW5ORTk2QzBHVjFXZ1VTWHBzQT09>

Passcode: 560318

Or by appointment

E-mail: 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.**

Required texts:

1. Placing Latin America, 4th 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, 3rd 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 one map quiz, two exams (mid-term and final), participating in discussions, and a research paper that consists of three parts: proposal, paper, and presentation.

Map Quiz: A map quiz covering places and the physical geography of Latin America will consist of matching a place with the corresponding label on the map. You will be provided with a blank map for use in class and for study.

before census day does not mean students receive a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete course requirements by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The “I” may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete the work for the course within the time limit, the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F or to NC, if the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

Grade Appeal Policy: UT Tyler’s Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of the course. If a student does not agree with the decision of the instructor, the student may then move the appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If the student is still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, the appeal moves to the Dean of the College offering that course, who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar’s Form Library](#).

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 a student has a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, the student is encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact the student when the application has been submitted and schedule an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/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.”

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military-affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at

903.565.5972.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that “Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.” Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

Recording of Class Sessions: Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in the course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in the 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.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: All courses follow the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).

Absence for Religious Holidays: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in all courses. 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>.

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	9-Jan	No Class! Mapping the Course/Introductions	Syllabus
1	W	11-Jan	Mapping the Course/Introductions Lecture: Defining the Region	Syllabus Placing Latin America Chapter 1
2	M	16-Jan	NO CLASS MLK Day!	
2	W	18-Jan	Lecture: Physical Environments	Placing Latin America Chapter 7 Nature: Goodbye Glaciers
3	M	23-Jan	Lecture: Ancient Landscapes and Indigenous Rights Census Day	Placing Latin America Chapter 2 pgs. 17-18.
3	W	25-Jan	Discussion 1: Ancient Landscapes	On Canvas "1491" by Charles Mann, "The Pristine Myth" by William Denevan, and "Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day" Jake Flanagin
4	M	30-Jan	Lecture: Historical Landscapes	Placing Latin America Chapter 2 pgs. 18-29.
4	W	1-Feb	Map Quiz Lecture: Economic Fundamentals	No readings
5	M	6-Feb	Lecture: Economics of Latin America	Placing Latin America Chapter 4
5	W	8-Feb	Paper Proposal Due Discuss Proposals Lecture: Geopolitics	Placing Latin America Chapter 3
6	M	13-Feb	Lecture: Geopolitics Continued	Placing Latin America Chapter 8
6	W	15-Feb	Discussion 2: Economic Systems and Globalization	On Canvas "Chapter 3: Cycles of Economic Change" by Edward L. Jackiewicz and Linda Quiquívix, Chapter 11: Drug Geographies" by Kent Mathewson and Zoe Pearson, and Oil and Gas projects by Matt Finer et al. 2008.

7	M	20-Feb	Lecture: Rural to Urban	Placing Latin America Chapter 5
7	W	22-Feb	Review for Midterm Film	No Readings
8	M	27-Feb	Midterm Exam	
8	W	1-Mar	Lecture: Latin American Cities	Placing Latin America Chapter 6
9	M	6-Mar	Discuss Papers and Presentations Lecture: Guatemala Case Study	A Beauty That Hurts: Prologue
9	W	8-Mar	Discussion 3: A Beauty That Hurts	A Beauty That Hurts Part 1
	M	13-Mar	Spring Break No Class	
	W	15-Mar	Spring Break No Class	
10	M	20-Mar	Discussion 4: A Beauty That Hurts	A Beauty That Hurts Part 2
10	W	22-Mar	Review of A Beauty That Hurts and Wrap-up	A Beauty That Hurts Part 3
11	M	27-Mar	Lecture: Tourism	Placing Latin America Chapter 10
11	W	29-Mar	Lecture: Social Movements	Placing Latin American Chapter 13 and 15
12	M	3-Apr	Inequality	Placing Latin America Chapter 12
12	W	5-Apr	The US Mexico Border/Immigration from Central America	Placing Latin America Chapter 14
13	M	10-Apr		
13	W	12-Apr	Final Paper Due on Canvas at 2:30 pm Class Presentations	
14	M	17-Apr	Review for Exam 2 Film	
14	W	19-Apr	Exam 2	
15	M	26-Apr	No Class: Study Day	
15	W	28-Apr		