

Geography of Middle America: Geography 3060
Spring Semester, 2012
DSC 285 T, TH 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Caleb Richter-Tate, Instructor
Office: DSC 245A
Office Hours: T, TH 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Textbook:

Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic and Regional Survey, 6th Edition_Brian
W. Blouet (College of William and Mary), Olwyn M. Blouet (Virginia State Univ.) September
2009, ©2010

An atlas is highly recommended. Suggested—Goode’s World Atlas

Readings:

Grading:

There will be 300 points from exams, 100 points for the book review, and 100 points for attendance, participation, and in-class discussion, for a total of 500 points throughout the semester. The UNO standard grading guidelines will be observed.

Class Focus and Outline:

This course will focus on the evolution, contrast, and development of human landscapes throughout Middle America and the Caribbean. These landscapes have been influenced by indigenous histories, European contact and culture, western development, regional conflicts, and peace resolutions.

- I. Intro: Historical Background and Contextual Setting (Ch. 1-6)
 - a. Human diversity, background, and terms
 - b. Physical diversity, historical places
 - c. General outlook, trends, and tendencies of Middle America
- II. Caribbean Landscape: Past, Present, and Direction (Ch. 8)
 - a. Historical, p

- V. Modern Mexico (Ch. 9 and selected Journal Articles)
 - a. Landscape, politics, economy, and development trends
 - b. NAFTA, the border, and Zapatistas
 - c. Immigration issues and the Drug Trade

Exam # 3: Finals week at assigned time

Tentative Reading Schedule:

January

10: Discuss course syllabus and class requirements

12: Ch. 1-3

17: Ch. 4

19: Ch 5

24:

22: Spring Break—No Class

27:

29: Ch. 9

April

3: Selected article readings

5: Book Review Due

10: Selected article readings

12: Selected article readings

17: Selected article readings

19: Selected article readings

24: Review

26: Exam #3

May

April 30-May 4: Finals Week---No Test During Finals Week

Some suggested books for out of class reading assignment:

Colonialism and Landscape---Andrew Sluyter

Many Mexicos---Lesley Byrd Simpson

Incidents of Travel in Yucatan---John L. Stephens

Mexico: Narco-Violence and a Failed State?---George W. Grayson

The Motorcycle Diaries---Ernesto Che Guevara

Something in Vallarta or Something Like a Dream---Robert Richter

Search for the Camino Real---Robert Richter

Food for the Few---Gerardo Otero

Globalization and the Power of Peasants: La Via Campesina---Annette Aurelie Desmarais

El Gran Pueblo: A History of Greater Mexico--- William H. Beezley and Colin M. MacLachlan

Mexican Politics: The Dynamics of Change--- Howard Handelman

The Course of Mexican History--- Michael C. Meyer and William L. Sherman

The Spanish Empire in America--- C.H. Haring

A Guide to the Historical Geography of New Spain--- Peter Gerhard

How the García Girls Lost Their Accents or In the Time of Butterflies

Name-Place List:

Bahamas
Havana
Cuba
Jamaica
Haiti
Dominican Republic
Puerto Rico
Lesser Antilles
Aruba
Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Mexico
Panama
Panama Canal
Costa Rica
Nicaragua
Lake Managua
Lake Nicaragua
Honduras
El Salvador
Guatemala
Belize
Mexico
Merida
Mexico City
Guadalajara
Monterrey
Lake Chapala
Ciudad Juarez
Nogales
Tijuana
Cabo San Lucas
Gulf of California
Pacific Ocean

All Mexican States and Capital Cities