



**GEOG 470**  
**Geography of Latin America**  
**Fall 2004 with Dr. J. Anthony Abbott**  
**Science Hall, Room 147**  
**Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:40**

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**CLASS OVERVIEW:**

Regional studies have a long and distinguished history in the discipline of geography; the study of foreign lands has been the focus of geographic exploration and explication for centuries. In this class we will turn the gaze of the geographer on Latin America and the Caribbean to learn about its physical forms, history, and the productive activities of its people.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

To excel in this course one will demonstrate through in class examinations the ability to 1) locate and name countries and important physical features in Latin America and 2) associate particular political and economic activities and population patterns to specific locales and historical periods. One will also participate in several group discussions on selected topics important to Latin America and complete a term paper on a topic related to Latin American geography.

**TEXTS:**

Required

David L. Clawson. 2000. *Latin America and the Caribbean: Lands and People*. McGraw Hill.

Blouet and Blouet. 2004. *Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic and Regional Survey*. Wiley.

Various readings to be put on reserve as the quarter progresses.

Video

*EL Norte*. Directed by Gregory Nava. Shown in class.

**CLASS ADMINISTRATION:**

The class will consist of three exams and two written projects (totaling about 10 pages). Detailed instructions for the two writing assignments will be distributed in class. Credit will be distributed as follows:

Exams	(Three exams worth 20% each)	60%
El Norte Analysis	Discussion group and write-up	5%
Iran Contra Project (Link Bush Cabinet with)	Discussion group and write-up	5%
Geographic Region Presentations (CH 8-14)	Format to be determined	5%
Term Paper	It's a term paper, what else can I say?	25%

Fair or not, make-up exams are entirely at my discretion; University regulations do not obligate me to provide make-up opportunities. If you miss an exam due to circumstances beyond your control and can prove this to me through documented evidence, I might allow make-up work. Vacation plans are not included among circumstances beyond your control. My policies on [academic honesty](#) are posted on my website. If you ever feel tempted to cheat, please, ask my former students and other faculty about my zeal for failing the dishonest. Your final grade will be based on the percentage of points that you get in the class. The following percentage scores will earn the indicated mark.

>93, A	90-93, A-	87-89, B+	84-86, B	80-83, B-	77-79, C+
74-76, C	70-73, C-	67-69, D+	64-66, D	60-63, D-	<60, F

## **CLASS SCHEDULE:**

### **Section One: Introduction and Physical Geography**

Sept 23	Introduction and <u>El Norte</u> video (Ch. 1, Clawson; Introduction, Blouet)
Sept 28	<u>El Norte</u> video (cont.) and discussion
Sept 30	Landforms (Ch. 2, Clawson; Ch. 1, Blouet)
Oct 5	Climate (Ch. 3, Clawson; Ch. 1, Blouet)
Oct 7	Natural Regions (Ch. 4, Clawson; Ch. 1, Blouet)
Oct 12	Special Topic: Biodiversity and Agrodiversity (Paper on reserve, by Abbott)

### **Section Two: Cultural Geography**

Oct 14	Iberian Heritage and legacy (Ch. 5 Clawson; Ch. 3 Blouet)
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b><i>Exam One (Material from Section One)</i></b>
Oct 21	Political Map of Latin America (Ch. 6, Clawson; Ch. 8-14 Blouet)
<b>Oct 26</b>	<b>Geographic Region Presentations</b>
Oct 28	Indigenous History and the Politics of Race, Gender, Machismo and Sexuality (Ch. 7-8 Clawson; Ch. 3 Blouet) and Religion (Ch. 9)
Nov 2	Special Topic: U.S. Involvement in Latin America (Day of the Dead)

### **Section Three: Economic Geography**

Nov 4	Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (Ch. 10)
<i>Nov 9</i>	<i>Exam Two (Material from Section Two)</i>
Nov 16	Mining and Tourism (Ch. 11)
Nov 18	Iran Contra Discussion and Term Paper Workday
Nov 23	Migration (Ch. 12 Clawson; Ch. 5 Blouet) <i>Remittances</i>
Nov 30	Economic Integration and Supranationalism (Ch. 13 Clawson; Ch. 4 Blouet)
Dec 2	Special Topics: Narco-economics and Petroleum Politics
<i>Dec 7</i>	<i>Final Exam (Tuesday, 2-4 PM)</i>