

## **GEOGRAPHY 30220: THE GEOGRAPHY OF LATIN AMERICA**

UCD School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Policy  
2010-2011

### **Module Coordinator:**

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Office Hours – Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00 (*or by appointment*)

### **Class Meeting:**

When? Monday & Wednesday 13:00

Where? Theater M

### **Introduction:**

The objective of this module is to help students develop critical and thoughtful perspectives on current economic, political, social and cultural processes that shape Latin America. These processes are explored by looking at the commonalities and the particularities of Latin American countries as well as the historical and existing connections between Latin America and rest of the world. This module is an opportunity for you to learn to “think geographically” about Latin America. Throughout this module, we will examine the relationship between social and spatial processes at different scales and the ways in which they interact to create new processes.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this module, you should have:

1. Understood the importance of a regional approach in geography.
2. Examined key topical issues in relation to a major world region.
3. Developed critical thinking and reading skills.

### **Assessment:**

This module will be assessed by a 2 hour end of semester exam (100%). Half of the exam will comprise a series of multiple choice questions and the second half of the exam will be an essay.

### **Course readings:**

This module has a number of readings that you are required to complete in preparation for each lecture. Details of the readings are below. Please keep in mind that additional readings may be assigned during the semester. In addition to the required readings, I have provided a list of suggested readings that complement the required text. The suggested readings can be used to further develop your own ideas of a specific topic that might be of interest. All course readings and other supplementary material will be available on the Blackboard e-learning system. You can login to blackboard through your university computer account at <http://elearnnew.ucd.ie/>. It is your responsibility to check this regularly.

### Lecture Schedule:

I am fully aware of the fact that things change, therefore, it is impossible to provide an exact schedule of topics and issues that will be discussed. The schedule on the following page is TENTATIVE, and may change depending on how the course develops. Any changes in topics or readings will be announced ahead of time.

Week	Date	Topic	Required Reading	Suggested Readings
1	17.01.2011	Introduction to module		
	19.01.2011	Where is Latin America anyway?	Jones, 2003; Skidmore & Smith (pp. 1-12)	
2	24.01.2011	Colonialism I	Blouet & Blouet, 2006; Denevan (du)	Lovell, 1992
	26.01.2011	Colonialism II	Restrepo, 2003	Philips, 2007
3	31.01.2011	Legacy of Colonialism I	De la Peña, 2005; Hanson, 1974	Arias, 2003; Radcliffe & Westwood, 1996
	2.02.2011	Legacy of Colonialism II: United Fruit Company	Chapman, 2009 (pp. 1-43); Bucheli & Read, 2007	Striffler, 1999; Moberg, 1996
4	07.02.2011	Understanding development I	Jackiewicz & Quiquívix, 2007	
	09.02.2011	Understanding development II: dependency theory	Porter & Sheppard, 1998 (pp.96-120)	Tomlinson, 2003; Cardoso & Faletto, 1971 – Preface
5	14.02.2011	The new left in Latin America	Martinez, 2007; Cleary, 2006	
	16.02.2011	Case study: Venezuela & Bolivia	Rochlin, 2008; Muntaner et. al., 2006	Parker, 2005
6	21.02.2011	New social Movements	Vanden, 2007	Mato, 2000
	23.02.2011	Case study: The Zapatista movement	Stahler-Sholk, 2001; Washbrook, 2005	Jung, 2003; Stahler-Sholk, 2007
7	28.02.2011	The informal sector I	Roever, 2006	
	02.03.2011	The informal sector II	Peña, 1999; Swanson, 2007	
8	07.03.2011	BREAK		
	09.03.2011	BREAK		
9	14.03.2011	BREAK		
	16.03.2011	BREAK		
10	21.03.2011	On the move: Migration	Mains, 2007	Blouet, 2006
	23.03.2011	Case study: US-Mexican migration	Cravey, 2007; Delgado-Wise & Covarrubias, 2007	Takacs, 1999; Wilson, 2000
11	28.03.2011	The Latin American City	Portes & Roberts, 2005	
	30.03.2011	Case Study: Mexico City	Connolly, 1999	Zunino, 2006
12	04.04.2011	What about culture?	<i>To be announced</i>	
	06.04.2011	Salsa: the sauce or the dance?	Miranda, 2004; Skinner, 2007	Henken, 2006
13	11.04.2011	Drug Geographies	Chomsky, 2000; Carlsen, 2008	Mathewson, 2007
	13.04.2011	Ireland & Latin America	Kirby, 1992	Coogan, 2000 (pp.602-643)
14	18.04.2011	<i>(To be announced)</i>		
	20.04.2011	Review		

### **Required Reading:**

- Blouet, B. & Blouet, O. (2006) Historical Geography. In Blouet, B. & Blouet, O. (eds) *Latin America and the Caribbean: a systematic and regional survey* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Bucheli, M and Read, I. (2007) Banana boats and baby food: the banana in U.S history. In Topik, S., Marichal, C. and Frank Z. (eds) *From silver to cocaine: Latin American commodity chains and the building of the world economy, 1500-2000*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Carlsen, L. (2008) *A primer on Plan Mexico*. Americas Policy Program Special Report.
- Chapman, P. (2009) Bananas: *How the United Fruit Company Shaped the World*. US: Conongate. Chapters 1-4
- Chomsky, N. (2000) *Rogue States: the rule of force in world affairs*. London: Pluto Press, Chapter 5 (pp. 62-81).
- Cleary, M. (2006) Explaining the left's resurgence. *Journal of Democracy* 17. 4, pp. 35-49.
- Connolly, P. (1999) Mexico City: our common future? *Environment and Urbanization* 11. 1, pp. 53-78.
- Cravey, A. (2007) U.S. – Mexico borderlands. In Jackiewicz, E. & Bosco, F. *Placing Latin America: Contemporary themes in human geography*. Lanham: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers. (p. 83- 90).
- De la Peña, G. (2005) Social and cultural policies towards indigenous peoples: perspectives from Latin America. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34, pp. 717-739
- Delgado-Wise, R. and Covarrubias, H.M (2007) The reshaping of Mexican labor exports under NAFTA: Paradoxes and challenges. *International Migration Review* 41:3, pp. 656-679.
- Denevan, W. (date unknown) The Pristine Myth: the landscape of the Americas in 1492. online at: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~alcoze/for398/class/pristinemyth.html>
- Hanson, M. (1974) Organizational bureaucracy in Latin America and the legacy of Spanish colonialism. *Journal of Interamerican studies and world affairs* 16. 2, p. 199-219.
- Jackiewicz, E. and Quiquívix, L. (2007) Eras and errors: a historical and geographical overview of Latin America's economic and political development. In Jackiewicz, E. & Bosco, F. *Placing Latin America: Contemporary themes in human geography*. Lanham: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers. (p. 17- 30).
- Jones, G (2003) Latin American geographies. In Swanson, P. (Ed) *The companion to Latin American studies*. London: Arnold
- Kirby, P. (1992) Ireland and Latin America: links and lessons. Dublin : Trócaire and Gill & MacMillan.
- Mains, S. (2007) Transnational communities, identities, and moving populations. In Jackiewicz, E. & Bosco, F. *Placing Latin America: Contemporary themes in human geography*. Lanham: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers. (p. 205- 234).
- Martinez, N. (2007) Latin America Rising: Democracy rising/8 hotspots of progress. *Yes! Magazine* Summer: 18-22.

- Miranda, M. (2004) Salsa music as expressive liberation. *Centro Journal* XVI:2, pp. 158-173.
- Mutaner, C. Salazar, R., Benach, J., Armada, F. (2006) Venezuela's barrio adentro: an alternative to neoliberalism in health care. *International Journal of Health Services*, 36:4, pp. 803-811.
- Peña, S. (1999) Informal markets: street vendors in Mexico City. *HABI-A-IN*, 23:3, pp. 363-372.
- Porter, P. & Sheppard, E. (1998) *A world of difference: society, nature, development*. London: The Guilford Press. Pp. 96-120.
- Portes, A. & Roberts, B. (2005) The free-market city: Latin American urbanization in the years of the neoliberal experiment. *Studies in Comparative International Development* 40:1, pp. 44-82.
- Restrepo, L.F (2003) The cultures of colonialism. In Swanson, P. (Ed) *The companion to Latin American studies*. London: Arnold
- Rochlin, J. (2008) Latin America's left turn and the new strategic landscape: the case of Bolivia. *Third World Quarterly*. 28:7, pp. 1327-1342.
- Roever, S. (2006) Street trade in Latin America: demographics, trends, legal issues and vending organizations in six cities. *Paper prepared for the WEIGO Urban Policies Programme*.
- Skidmore, T. and Smith, P. (2005) *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press: Oxford. Prologue (pp. 1-12)
- Skinner, J. (2007) The salsa class: a complexity of globalization, cosmopolitans and emotions. *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 14, pp. 485-506.
- Stahler-Sholk, R. (2007) Globalization and social movement resistance: the Zapatista rebellion in Chiapas, Mexico. *New Political Science*, 23:4, pp. 88-100.
- Swanson, K. (2007) Revanchist urbanism heads south: the regulation of indigenous beggars and street vendors in Ecuador. *Antipode* 39: 4, pp. 708-728.
- Vanden, H. (2007) Social movements, hegemony, and new forms of resistance. *Latin American Perspective*, 34:2, pp. 17-30.
- Washbrook, S. (2005) The Chiapas uprising of 1994: historical antecedents and political consequences. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 32:3&4, pp. 417-449.

### **Suggested Reading:**

- Blouet, B. (2006) Population: growth, distribution, and migration. In Blouet, B. & Blouet, O. (eds) *Latin America and the Caribbean: a systematic and regional survey* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons.
- Arias, A. (2003) Politics and society. In Swanson, P. (Ed) *The companion to Latin American studies*. London: Arnold
- Blouet, B. (2006) Population: growth, distribution, and migration. In Blouet, B. & Blouet, O. (eds) *Latin America and the Caribbean: a systematic and regional survey* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

- Cardoso, F. & Faletto, E. (1971) *Dependency and development in Latin America*. Berkeley: University of California Press – Preface to English edition (pp. vii-xxv)
- Coogan, T.P (2000) *Wherever green is worn: the story of the Irish Diaspora*. London: Hutchinson (chapter 9, pp. 602-643)
- Henken, T. (2006) From son to salsa: the roots and fruits of Cuban Music. *Latin American Research Review*, 41:3, pp. 185-200.
- Jung, C. (2003) Indigenous identity: neoliberalism, cultural rights, and the Mexican Zapatistas. *Social Research* 70:2, pp. 433-462.
- Lovell, G. (1992) Heavy Shadows and Black Night: Disease and Depopulation in Colonial Spanish America. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 82(3): 426-43
- Mato, D. (2000) Transnational networking and the social production of representations of identities by indigenous peoples' organizations of Latin America. *International Sociology*, 15:2, pp. 343-360.
- Mathewson, K. (2007) Drug geographies. In Jackiewicz, E. & Bosco, F. *Placing Latin America: Contemporary themes in human geography*. Lanham: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers. (p. 137-158).
- Moberg, M. (1996) Crown colony as banana republic: the united fruit company in British Honduras, 1900-1920. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 28:2 pp. 357-381.
- Parker, D. (2005) Chávez and the search for an alternative to neoliberalism. *Latin American Perspectives*. 32:2, pp. 39-50.
- Philips, T. (2007) Mexico and Neocolonialism: and Irish perspective. *Irish Immigration Studies in Latin America* 5:1 pp. 16-22.
- Radcliffe, S. Westwood, S. (1996) *Remaking the nation: place, identity and politics in Latin America*. London: Routledge (Chapter 2 – "Race, state and nation", pp. 29-50)
- Stahler-Sholk, R. (2001) Resisting neoliberal homogenization: the Zapatista Autonomy Movement. *Latin American Perspectives* 34:2, pp. 48-63.
- Striffler, S. (1999) Wedded to work: class struggles and gendered identities in the restructuring of the Ecuadorian Banana Industry. *Identities* 6(1), pp. 91-120.
- Takacs, S. (1999) Alien-nation: immigration, national identity and transnationalism. *Cultural Studies* 14:4, pp. 591-620.
- Tomlinson, B.R. (2003) What was the third world? *Journal of Contemporary History* 38, 2, p. 307-321.
- Wilson, T.D. (2000) Anti-migration sentiment and the problem of reproduction /maintenance in Mexican immigration to the United States. *Critique of Anthropology* 20:2, pp. 191-213.
- Zunino, H. (2006) Power relations in urban decision-making: neo-liberalism, 'techno-politicians' and authoritarian redevelopment in Santiago, Chile. *Urban Studies* 43:10, pp. 1825-1846.

**Other sources of information:**

- <http://www.irlandeses.org/> – Society for Irish Latin American Studies, an organization of academics, students and others interested in understanding the relationship between Ireland and Latin America.
- <http://www.lasc.ie/> – Latin American Solidarity Centre: A Dublin-based organization involved in advancing the knowledge of current Latin American cultural, economic, political and environmental issues.
- <http://hrw.org/doc/?t=americas> – Human Rights Watch: A United States-based international NGO that does research and advocates human rights across the world. This website has information pertaining to the American continent.
- <http://lanic.utexas.edu/las.html> – An excellent resource for information on Latin America
- <http://projectallende.org/> – A blog created by an Irish researcher living in Argentina. It is a great source for those interested in Latin America from an Irish perspective and the parallels between Ireland and some countries in the region.