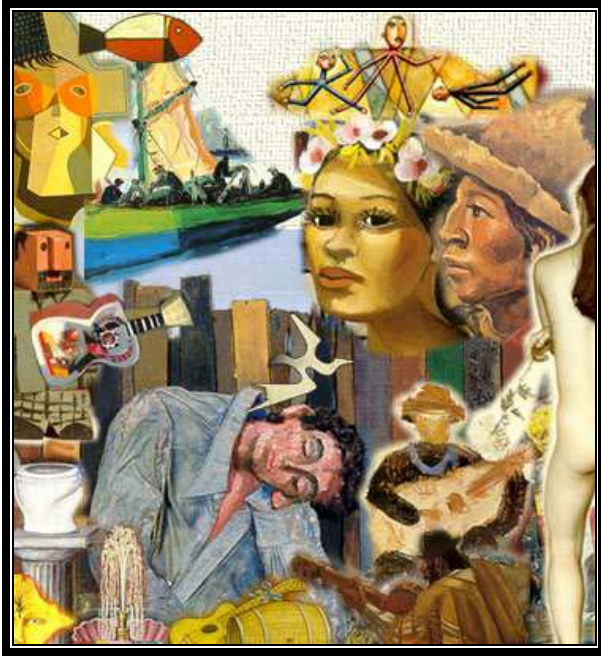


Geography of Latin America (Geog214)



Professor Lise Nelson
T/R 10:00-11:20 a.m.
McKenzie 240C

Register for lecture and a discussion section.

This course explores, at an introductory level, the cultural, economic, political and environmental geographies of Latin America. We examine the legacies of conquest and colonialism in the region, and then turn towards twentieth century transformations, including rural “modernization”; the rapid growth of cities and migration; U.S. – Latin America relations; as well as the dynamics of contemporary “free-trade” globalization. We will look at these topics through four lens:

1. The *uneven geography* of these transformations: how do they play out differently in different regions and locales in the Americas?
2. The geography of power and inequality: how and why do some social groups benefit from these transformations, and who is marginalized?
3. The changing relationship between humans and the environment: how have natural and human environments been transformed over time and space in the region?
4. The geography of political institutions, networks and resistances: how has the trajectory of “development” in the region been shaped by state policy and challenged by urban, peasant and indigenous movements?

Course requirements (tentative):

The grade for this course will be divided into the following parts: four one-page written exercises (30%); participation and attendance (10%); a midterm exam (30%); a final exam (30%). The midterm and final exams will consist of short and long-answer essay questions, as well as a map quiz section.

Textbooks (tentative—to be finalized in September):

These books, or ones similar to these, can be purchased at the bookstore. Additional readings posted on Blackboard.

- Winn, Peter. (2006) *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*
- Martínez, Rubén. (2002) *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. New York: Picador.