

San José State University
Department of Geography & Global Studies
GEOG 150, Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean
Section 01, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Eileen Peña
Office Location:	Washington Square Hall (WSQ) 111A
Telephone:	(408) 924-5497
Email:	eileen.pena@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays 3:15-4:15pm
Class Days/Time:	Mondays 4:30-5:45pm
Classroom:	CL 306
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing or instructor consent

Course Format

This course Access to the course is through Canvas learning management system. Information about Canvas, including links to log-in are here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas and MySJSU to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Geography of Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, and South America. Themes include environmental, historical, political, and economic geographies at the scales of the region, its countries, and selected cities.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Objective 1: Develop an analytical and spatial perspective of Latin America. *This will be accomplished through mapping activities, lecture, and textbook reading.*

Objective 2: Be familiar with the political, physical and cultural geography of Latin America. *This will be accomplished through mapping activities, lecture, and textbook reading.*

Objective 3: Explore, discuss, and evaluate contemporary issues in Latin America including: globalization, sustainability, politics, development, conflict, livelihoods, and related issues. *This will be accomplished through textbook reading, lecture, and written class project.*

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Title: Latin America and the Caribbean
Author: David L. Clawson
ISBN: 978-0-19-975924-8
Edition: 5th (it must be this specific edition #)
Copyright: 2012

Textbook available at the SJSU bookstore or online (if you order online, be sure to get the correct edition # and order early as course assignments will not be extended due to late book orders).

Other equipment / material requirements

You will need access to a computer and Microsoft Word (or a word processing software that allows you to save in .docx, .doc or .pdf format) for your written assignments.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Research Project and Presentation:

Based on a subject you find interesting, you will design a digital tourist “brochure” for some place in Latin America. This should highlight some aspect of Latin America that you find interesting, troubling, funny, perplexing, etc. enough to encourage others to visit it. Do not just write about a region or city, make sure you have some unusual angle. This is a research project so you will turn in a paper and will be graded on the high quality and synthesis of your work and writing.

You will be expected to do a digital presentation to the class – this is where the “brochure” comes in. It can be a video, slides, or other digital medium and will last 5-10 minutes. Your presentation should be geared toward getting your classmates and professor to sign up for a tour you are going to lead.

The paper is worth 75 points and the presentation worth 25 points. The paper is to be 5 full pages of writing and submitted through Canvas learning management system and will be cross-checked by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. Standard college paper guidelines should be followed regarding citing references, margins, etc.

Grading Policy

Mid-term exam	100 points
Map activities (6 worth 10 points each)	60 points
Quizzes (4 worth 10 points each)	40 points
Assignments (10 worth 10 points each)	100 points
Research Project and Presentation	100 points
Final Exam (not cumulative)	100 points
Total points available	500 points

Total Points	Letter Grade
475-500	A
450- 474	A-
435-449	B+
415-434	B
400-414	B-
365-399	C+
335-364	C
300-334	C-
285-299	D+
250-284	D
Less than 250	F

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to act in a manner appropriate for a college classroom. This includes treating fellow students and the instructor with respect and dignity even if they have a perspective or opinion that you do not share. This includes refraining from side conversations when others are speaking and raising your hand to contribute to the classroom conversation.

All electronic devices should be put away for the duration of class. If there is an emergency and you need access to your cellphone, let the instructor know before class and then take it into the hallway if necessary. Laptops are not allowed except under special circumstances approved by the instructor.

Late work will not be accepted, including map activities and quizzes, and exams. Personal appointments should be scheduled outside of class time.

Arriving late to class is not acceptable and is very distracting to the instructor and other students. Under the rare and extreme circumstance that you must be late, you should enter the room quietly and take the first available seat. Take your materials out of your bag quietly and find out what you missed **after** class.

Food and drink (except for a closeable water bottle) are not allowed in the classroom.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of

Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Geography 150 / Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean, Fall 2015, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes will be communicated in Catalyst.

Course Schedule

Week #	Class Meeting	Weekly Agenda (see Canvas for specific assignments and points)
1	August 24	Chapter 1: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean Mapping: Countries of Central and South America
2	August 31	Chapter 2: Landform Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean Mapping: Countries of The Caribbean
3	September 7	<i>Labor Day Holiday – No class meeting</i>
4	September 14	Chapter 3: Weather and Climate Mapping: Geo-regions of Central and South America Quiz 1
5	September 21	Chapter 4: Natural Regions
6	September 28	Chapter 5: Iberian Heritage, Conquest, and Institutions
7	October 5	Chapter 6: Political Change Quiz 2
8	October 12	<i>Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-6 and all mapping from beginning of semester)</i>
9	October 19	Chapter 7: Race, Ethnicity, and Social Class
10	October 26	Chapter 8: Latin America as a Culture Region Mapping: States of Mexico
11	November 2	Chapter 9: Religion Mapping: Capitals of Central and South America Quiz 3
12	November 9	Chapter 10: Agriculture and Agrarian Development Mapping: Capitals of The Caribbean
13	November 16	Chapter 11: Mining, Manufacturing, and Tourism

		First draft of paper (printed copy) due in class – peer and instructor review
14	November 23	Chapter 12: Urbanization, Population Growth, and Migration Student project presentations begin Research paper due (in Canvas)
15	November 30	Chapter 13: Development and Health Quiz 4 Student project presentations continue
16	December 7	Course Wrap-up and Student project presentations end
17	December 10 *(Thursday 2:45-5:00pm)*	<i>Final Exam (Chapters 7-13 and all mapping from midterm to end of semester)</i>