

Time: Mondays 12- 2 PM
Location: WI 524

Exclusion: GGR 249H

Instructor: Christian Abizaid
Office: Sidney Smith Hall, 5055
Office hours: Thurs., 12:15-2:15 PM, or by appointment
Email (CA): christian.abizaid@utoronto.ca
TA: Joanna Kocsis
Email (JC) : joanna.kocsis@utoronto.ca

Course description

Not long ago, Latin America seemed very distant to Canada and the mind of Canadians. Today, our ties with Latin America are stronger than ever before –through investment, trade and consumption, foreign aid, tourism, migration, environmental and human rights issues, as well as culture and the media– yet Canadians still have a limited understanding of this fascinating and complex region. Bound together by a common cultural heritage and colonial history, Latin America is nevertheless, characterized by an incredible diversity of physical and cultural landscapes. Countries and people in this region continue to face many important challenges, including poverty and persisting socioeconomic disparities, environmental destruction, migration, discrimination and violence. At the same time, Latin America has been the cradle of a number of social movements in response to the neoliberal project. This course seeks to develop a general understanding of present-day Latin America using a thematic overview and case studies to examine the diversity of Latin American landscapes (physical and cultural), and how they are changing within the context of globalization. The course is divided into two parts. Part 1 provides a general overview of the region, addressing the physical environment and major historical, political, economic and social processes that have shaped development patterns from colonial to present times. Part 2 connects the first section to relevant contemporary themes in human geography, including: urbanization, race, migration and transnationalism, environment and development issues, violence and security, and social movements. The course consists primarily of lectures, complemented by slides, some videos, and in-class activities. Guest speakers have also been invited.

Evaluation

- **Journal of newspaper coverage on Latin America (15%; due Jan. 29).** A 2 week review and analysis of current events related to the geography of Latin America through the press. More detailed guidelines will be discussed in class. We will continue to follow current events in Latin America throughout the term and will be devoting a few minutes to discuss them in class each week.
- **Memory of Fire project.** Students are required to conduct a research project related to the geography of Latin America in relation to Eduardo Galeano's *Memory of Fire* trilogy, which we are using as key reference materials for this course. Specifically, students are to select one episode or story from the vignettes on Latin America included in the *Memory of Fire* series and critically analyze the events and circumstances described therein making some connection to geography broadly defined. Geography can be many different things, but is always about land, life, identity, and the struggle for control of resources. The bonds between land and life, the links between quality of life and access to resources, and the connections between deployment of resources and social well-being are all fundamental aspects of geographical inquiry. Take this assignment as an opportunity to engage with the region through a geographical lens. The assignment is divided into two parts described below.

- **Project proposal (10%; Due Feb. 12)** This is a 500-700 word submission (i.e., ~2 pages using regular font size and margins) that identifies a vignette that is of interest to you and outlines a research topic that arises from the events and circumstances Galeano invokes in the vignette you selected.
- **Research paper (35%; Due March 25)** A short research paper (~2500 words) that examines the issue you identified arising from the *Memory of Fire* vignette.

Note: More details on the *Memory of Fire* project will be provided in a separate handout.

- **Participation and in-class activities (10%; ongoing)** Participation includes playing an active role in class, by asking questions, making comments on lectures, participating in class and small-group discussions. It also includes quizzes related to assigned readings and discussion of current events reported in the news. As a way to provide a wider range of options to engage with course materials, students are also welcome to submit questions and brief informal comments related to readings and class discussion of the week. Electronic questions and comments must be submitted via email, preferably the day before class and up to the end of the day (i.e., 5:00 PM) on Tuesday (i.e., a day after such materials were discussed in class). Please note that it is easier to incorporate questions if sent in advance.
- **Final cumulative exam (30%; during official final exam period)**. Exam format will be discussed later in the term.

Readings

Required texts:

- 1) Selected readings from books and journal articles that will be made available through the course's *Quercus* page, typically through links to the U of T Libraries. Alternative arrangements will be made for readings that are not available in e-format.
- 2) Eduardo Galeano's *Memory of Fire* trilogy:
 - a. Volume 1: *Genesis* (1985)
 - b. Volume 2: *Faces and Masks* (1987)
 - c. Volume 3: *Century of the Wind* (1988)

These three books were originally published in Spanish and translated into English by Cedric Belfrage in the 1980s. Since then, they been reprinted by Norton in the 1990s and Nation Books in the 2010s. The books are generally available through mainstream bookstore, or online stores, either as paperback or in electronic form (Kindle/Kobo). Recently, an electronic version of the entire trilogy has been made available for a price roughly equivalent to that of one of the separate volumes. Please note that Kindle/Kobo versions can be read on conventional electronic devices (tablets, phones, PC/MAC computers).

Other useful resources:

Journals and Magazines on Latin America:

- *Hispanic American Historical Review*
- *Latin American Perspectives*
- *Journal of Latin American Studies*
- *Bulletin of Latin American Research*
- *Latin American Research Review*
- *NACLA report on the Americas*
- *NACLA Newsletter*

Geography journals:

- *Journal of Latin American Geography*
- *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*
- *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*
- *Geoforum*
- *Space and Society*
- *Human Ecology*
- *Journal of peasant Studies*

News and Media

- BBC, The Guardian (UK), Toronto Star, National Post, CBC, PBS, The New York Times, Miami Herald, Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, Aljazeera. There are multiple Spanish speaking news outlets in Latin America itself.

Statistics

- *CIA The World Factbook*: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- *United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC-CEPAL)*: <http://www.eclac.cl/default.asp?idioma=IN>

Optional Latin American movie showings

Films provide an excellent opportunity for learning more about a region. Optional movie showings will be organized to complement some themes discussed in class. A brief discussion will follow each movie. Students who attend and participate in these discussions will have the opportunity to earn extra marks. Dates and times will be discussed in class.

Proposed lecture schedule*

	Topic	Items to remember
Part 1: A General Survey of Latin America		
Week 1 (Jan. 6):	NO CLASS	
Week 2 (Jan. 13):	Introduction to Latin America, Latin American Geography and the Memories of Fire	
Week 3 (Jan. 20):	Physical Geography of Latin America	
Week 4 (Jan. 27):	Latin America before Columbus	News Journal due Jan. 29
Week 5 (Feb. 3):	The Conquest and the colonial period	
Week 6 (Feb. 10)	The new republics and the search for modernization	Proposal due Feb. 12
(Feb. 17)	Reading week –NO CLASS	
Part 2: Contemporary Issues in Latin American Geography		
Week 7 (Feb. 24):	Extractive industries, people and environment	
Week 8 (Mar. 2):	Race and migration	
Week 9 (Mar. 9):	Urbanization and current urban issues	
Week 10 (Mar. 16):	Violence and insecurity	
Week 11 (Mar. 23):	Social movements	Research paper due Mar. 25
Week 12 (Mar. 30):	Latin America into the future & course wrap-up	

* NOTES: Modifications may apply as the term progresses; students will be notified in advance, should any changes be made.

COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Lectures and classroom policies

- Class will start on time (i.e., 12:10 PM). If you have to come into class late, please do so in the least disruptive manner possible. **As a sign of respect to the instructor and the rest of the class, arrivals after 12:30 PM are discouraged, as are early departures.**
- Class preparation and student participation: Although attendance is not formally part of the evaluation for the course, students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance and be prepared to participate in class discussions and in-class activities. I want this class to foster an environment that encourages student participation and questions. Please note that participation does count towards your grade.
- Course manners: You are expected to handle yourselves with respect toward the instructor, teaching assistant, and your peers in all matters related to the course, including participation in class, in-class activities, communications regarding course content or evaluation, etc.
- Etiquette regarding the use of computers and other electronic devices: The use of computers and other electronic devices in class should be limited to activities related to the course. Phones ringing, earphones, web surfing, watching unrelated videos and texting are disruptive to your peers and the instructor. As such, they are unacceptable.
- Course notes: As a courtesy, I will be posting my powerpoint slides on *Quercus* **after** class. Please note that I am under no obligation to do so and that such notes are intended to assist you and not replace your personal notes.
- Copyright issues: Lectures and course materials are considered intellectual property and are covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record a lecture or other course material in any way, including photos, are required to ask explicitly for my permission. If granted, such permission is only for such student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them online or in any other way. Please refer to the "Rules and Regulations" section of the printed version of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Calendar for further details on UofT Copyright issues.

Written assignments

- Formatting: Coursework must be word processed, 1.5-spaced, 12 point font size, unless otherwise noted. Assignments must be proofread prior to submission to insure that they are free of grammatical and spelling errors and must include a list of all references cited in the text, using the APA citation style (see UofT research link in the resources section below). All coursework should include the student's name and the last 5 digits of your ID number, the course's code and name, and that of the instructor, in order to avoid loss or improper identification. Note, however, that there is no need to use a cover page to do so.
- Green course: This course has been recognized as a green course by the Sustainability Office. Green courses are intended to reduce paper use. As such, assignments must be submitted electronically (see submission guidelines below). Students are also encouraged to conserve paper by limiting their printing of course materials whenever possible, or printing double-sided. To learn how to print double-sided see: <http://utbeat.biology.utoronto.ca/doublesiding.html> , or <http://www.printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca/Instructions%20-%201st%20page.htm>).
- Submission guidelines: All assignments must be submitted electronically through *Quercus* **by 11:59 PM** on the date specified by the instructor. It is recommended that you keep copies of your assignments and

early drafts until you receive your graded assignment. Please submit your assignments in a DOC, DOCX or Word-compatible file format. Please do **NOT** submit your assignment as a PDF file.

- Late submissions: Work submitted late will be accepted with a **5% daily penalty (including weekend days), up to seven days** after the due date. If needed, you may submit your assignment during the weekend as a way to minimize late penalties. In such cases, the date/time of submission will be considered, using 11:59 PM as time of reference. In case of an outstanding **valid** situation you must contact me, preferably in advance. I cannot consider a particular situation unless I know about it, so do not wait until the end of the term to communicate with me if something did come up. For health reasons, a completed University of Toronto *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form must be submitted (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>); other proof may be required by the instructor for non-medical reasons (see general guidelines and form put together by FAS available at: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/petitions/process#documentation>). The required form must be submitted within a week of the missed deadline. No extensions will be granted unless you have communicated with the instructor and your reasons have been deemed valid.

Communication with the instructor

My preference is to meet with you in person. My designated office hours is a block of time in which I am available to discuss with you course-related matters (for the hours, see the first page of the syllabus). It is time set aside for you-- take advantage of it! Appointments may also be set for students who cannot come during scheduled office hours. For urgent matters or simple questions, you may also contact me via email, but **the rule of thumb is that email should not be a substitute for office hours**. Depending on the situation/issue, I may ask you to come to office hours or set up a meeting in person. Please note that I am not online 24/7 and thus may not be able to respond to your messages right away. I will make an effort to respond to you within 48 hours, but it will take longer during weekends, as I remain offline to spend time with my family. Please make sure to use your University of Toronto email account (i.e. @mail.utoronto.ca) and to include the course code "GGR 341" and your name in the title box of your email for easier handling. Other e-mail addresses may be filtered as spam and thus I may be unable to respond to them.

QUERCUS

A *Quercus* page has been set for this course. PowerPoint slides, additional readings, assignments and other useful materials will be posted on it. As mentioned earlier, assignments must be submitted through *Quercus*. *Quercus* will also be used by the instructor to communicate with the class. Please make sure to check it regularly. To access the GGR341 *Quercus*, go to the UofT login page at: <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in, click on the Dashboard module on the right margin of your screen. You will then be able to see the tab for GGR341 course (along with all your other *Quercus*-based courses).

Accessibility needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> You may also want to contact Accessibility Services Office if you have problems arising from chronic issues or injuries sustained during the term that affect your ability to do tests or course work.

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that

you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor
- Making up sources or facts
- Including references to sources that you did not use
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing"
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades

Please note that potential offences will be addressed in accordance with institutional procedures. Check the 'How not to plagiarize' website at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize> for further guidance.

Useful resources

-UofT Libraries Catalogue: <http://search1.library.utoronto.ca/UTL/search.jsp>

-UofT Writing: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>

-On reading and writing critically: <http://writing.utoronto.ca/advice/reading-and-researching/critical-reading>

-Planning and organizing your essays: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/planning-and-organizing>

-Style and editing: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/style-and-editing>

-How and why to cite: <https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=251103&p=1673068> ;

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>