

Geography 27100 – Geography of South America

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Office hours: By appointment
SYLLABUS

Course Overview

The course will introduce students to South America's spatial processes through five modules around geographies of dispossession and resistance:

- Geography of democracy and Human Rights
- Uneven development and the spatial, racial and gendered division of work
- Political ecologies and environmental conflicts
- Geography of mobilities and migration
- Geography of knowledges

The course will develop a spatial approach to understand the trajectory of these issues, as well as to articulate their manifestations from the local to the global scale. We will try to understand what political, social, environmental and cultural ruptures and continuities constitute South America as a region.

Course objectives and learning outcomes:

By the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Understand the geography of colonial legacy in South America, its political, economic and social impacts.
2. Analyze ruptures and continuities of the processes of independence throughout the continent and understand South America's structural role in the different phases of globalization in terms of labor division, natural resources, knowledge production, human rights and migrations.
3. Identify how categories such as race, class, gender can impact those issues specifically.
4. Engage critically with development patterns and projects emerging from the different countries as a response to those challenges.
5. Use fundamental geographical concepts (e.g. scale, place, space, region, borders) and methods (e.g. thematic maps, population pyramids, interactive digital maps) in order to develop your arguments.

Email Policy

I encourage you to email me with any questions about the class.

Please remember that you are required to indicate a subject and to redact your email in a formal way (be specific, make sure your questions are clear, make sure you have read the information on Blackboard before emailing). Please keep in mind that professionalism is expected in the communication through email (I encourage you to check the website [netiquette](#) if you have any doubt).

Required Textbook

There is no required textbook for this class. The material will all be available on Blackboard.

Grading

Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following percentages:

Participation in class (10%)

Class participation begins with regular connection to Blackboard. Zoom sessions will be organized twice a week for each chapter, according to the planned class. You will have to attend and engage in the discussions. Completion of the quizzes will be considered as class participation.

Quizzes (30%)

There will be a short quiz by the end of each module and 2 map quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple choice and will cover the material taught in each chapter. They will be accessible on Blackboard for an hour over a period of 48 hours.

Assignments (30%)

There will be one assignment for each module. Assignments will be collective and will serve as a starting point for class discussion on the discussion board. The guidelines for each assignments will be available on Blackboard.

Final Essay (30%)

Students will have to write one short essay as a midterm. The essay will be an analysis on one of the issues mentioned in class (500 to 700 words). Students will have to use knowledge from the class and other resources in order to develop articulated arguments. It will be the opportunity to evaluate their capacity to develop critical thinking on a specific topic. The essay will have to be turned in through Blackboard.

Final feedback (Mandatory to validate the course but not graded)

Students will have to do a short critical analysis of the semester to validate the course.

There are no individual extensions for assignments, quizzes, or the final exam UNLESS in the case of a documented medical emergency. There will be no extra credit assignments given for this course

Policy on the Giving of IN as a Grade

No incompletes (IN) for this course are given unless there are exceptional and documented individual circumstances. If you miss an exam, you must provide a documented reason and make arrangements to make up the work. If you have a documented extended absence due to illness or family emergency, you must make arrangements to complete an appropriate alternative assignment to the in-class discussions.

Credit/No Credit Policy

To receive a CR/NC you must have completed all course requirements (exams, quizzes, etc.) and request the CR/NC option prior to beginning the final exam. Based on your final score you will be assigned a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found on the Hunter College homepage at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/advising/how-to/file-credit-no-credit-cr-nc> (where you can also download a copy of the Credit/No Credit form) or in the undergraduate catalog at <http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=37&navoid=10489>.

Learning Environment:

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with your legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

You are expected to treat your instructor and all other participants in the course with courtesy and respect in all interactions (Zoom sessions, discussion board, emails). Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free from harassing statements. You are encouraged to disagree with other students, but such disagreements need to be based upon facts and documentation (rather than prejudices and personalities).

Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: [\(212\) 772- 4857](tel:2127724857) or [\(212\) 650-3230](tel:2126503230).

Mental Health:

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are resources available at Hunter College to assist you. The Counseling and Wellness Services division at Student Affairs offer free and confidential short-term counseling to students. Please visit their website for all contact information: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/cws/counselingservices/welcome>.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct:

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/diversityandcompliance/repository/files/cuny-policy-on-sexual-misconduct.pdf>

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Updates will be posted regularly on Blackboard.