FALL 2014
GEA 3320: POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE CARIBBEAN
M/W/F 9:00-9:50 AM
Ziff Education Bldg. # 120

Professor: Dr. Ricardo M. González (rmgonzal@fiu.edu)
Office Hours: By appointment only; call (305) 348-2247.
Department Location: Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies
SIPA # 304

This course provides an introduction to the geography of the Caribbean. The course studies the countries, regions, and peoples, and their regional organizations. The class will offer you with the basic knowledge of the physical environment, political geography, population distribution, economic development, and ways of life. Emphasis will be placed upon the changing societies of the region and the changing relationships between people and their environment.

Course Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the semester students will be able to:
• Explain how Caribbean landscapes have been shaped by geomorphological, climatic, biogeographical, and cultural processes;
• Develop map-based knowledge of key Caribbean geographical features;
• Be motivated to keep up with and analyze current events reported in the news media;
• Know where to find information and how to conduct basic research on topics related to Caribbean geography; and,
• Improve their writing skills.

Blackboard:
You must have access to a computer and internet connection to complete this class without major difficulties. Class notes or other materials will be posted on the course website: Blackboard (https://online.fiu.edu/). There are many computer terminals at the FIU libraries and other locations on all our campuses if you do not have a reliable computer at home. A computer malfunction, unless it is a problem with Blackboard itself, is not a legitimate excuse for missing an assignment or reading. Everything you need to know about the course and all the online materials and readings, except for the textbook listed below, will be accessible from Blackboard. E-mails, online discussions, submission of exercises, and grade tracking will all be done through this password-protected website. Please do not hesitate to contact the professor if you have questions or problems accessing course materials.

Textbook:
Requirements:

- **Read the assigned chapters/articles before coming to class.** Assignments from the text are listed below for each class session. The lectures will often presume knowledge that the textbook provides. They will NOT be a repeat of the textbook, but an elaboration of certain concepts.

- **Attend class meetings and participate actively.** You are expected to attend class and participate individually and with your assigned groups. There will be no role call; it is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Please, **don't be late for class.**

- **Map quizzes.** There will be 4 map quizzes during regular class time. These will be given unannounced starting on the 3rd week of classes. The first map quiz will cover the most important physical geography features of the Caribbean. The second map quiz will cover the countries of the Caribbean. The third map quiz will cover the countries’ capitals and other important urban areas of the region. The fourth and last map quiz will include all locations covered in the first three quizzes. **No make-up quizzes will be given.**

- **Exercise.** There will be 1 individual exercise based on a traditional Caribbean dish and related to the topics discussed in the course, which requires you to apply concepts learned in class. Only one student will be allowed to work on a specific dish. The exercise is composed of three sections, including a table, an analysis of the information provided, and a map where you will summarize your findings. **Your exercise must be uploaded to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due date: Monday, October 13 at 11:59 PM.** Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

- **Research Paper.** You will be assigned individually a research article from a geography journal in which the research focus or site is located in the Caribbean region. You will then summarize the elements of that paper, including the subject, methodology, literatures, and conclusions based on the summary format provided in the Research Paper Instructions (file). The **due date is Monday, November 10 at 11:59 PM.** **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

  **Selecting an Article (due date is Monday, September 15 at 11:59 PM):** The first step in completing this assignment is finding an article. The article you use must comply with the overall assignment – it must be a geography article in which the research focus or site is located in the Caribbean region, the research must be related to one of the topics covered in the course textbook, it must be a full-length, research article (not book reviews, editorials, commentaries, or special issue entries), and it must be from one of the peer reviewed geography journals listed in the Research Paper Instructions file. They must also be published in the year 1994 or later. Only one person will be allowed to review an article, so it is a good idea to pick out a few that interests you. To submit your article preferences you will have to send the Instructor of the course an e-mail with a list of three articles you have picked out in order of preference – your list should consist of full citations for the articles selected (authors last name/s, first name/s, year of publication, title of article, journal where it was published, volume, number, page numbers). You should also attach the PDFs for the articles to your message. **If you fail to submit an appropriate article by the due date, not only will you lose points towards the final grade of this assignment (10%), but I will assign an article to you** – I can’t promise it will be interesting or easy to read. **I will send individual messages to each student with their assign articles no later than Monday, September 22.**

  Once you complete your paper, you must submit your work to the plagiarism detection website Turnitin.com by the due date. **Any exercise that has been plagiarized will result in a failing grade in the class.**

- **We will have three exams (non-cumulative).**
Grading:
- Individual and Group Participation: 10%
- Map Quiz (3): 15%
- Exercise: 10%
- Research paper: 20%
- Exam #1: 15%
- Exam #2: 15%
- Exam #3: 15%
TOTAL: 100%

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Class participation:
It is expected that interactive learning and teaching will enrich the learning experience of all students, and that each student will work in partnership with your assigned group and the professor to create a positive learning experience for all. Student engagement is a necessary condition for an effective learning experience, and includes contributions to debate and discussion, positive interactive learning with others, and an enthusiastic attitude towards inquiry. Everyone is expected to be a positive contributor to the class learning community, and students are expected to share the responsibility of teaching each other.

Every student must respect the right of everyone to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students must adhere to a standard of academic conduct, demonstrating respect for themselves, their fellow classmates, and the educational mission of the University.

Class conduct:
Students and instructor in this class are bound by Florida International University policies on conduct, and academic rights and freedoms. Please make sure that you are familiar with the rules and regulations of our campus community.
In order to ensure a positive learning environment, the following behaviors are unacceptable:
- talking out of turn
- carrying out side conversations in class
- chronic tardiness/early departures
- sleeping, reading non-class material
- internet cruising/email/text messaging
Cell phones must be off during class. No talking on the phone or texting. Laptop use is permitted for note-taking ONLY; violating the laptop policy means that you will not be allowed to use your laptop in class.

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any assignments that have been plagiarized will earn an automatic failure grade in the course. Plagiarism is cheating. Don’t do it. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the Student Handbook. If you are uncertain about what plagiarism is, check out the FIU website: [http://library.fiu.edu/assistance/plagiarism](http://library.fiu.edu/assistance/plagiarism).

**Make-ups:**
There are no make-ups for the map quizzes. All make-up exams (Exam # 1 and Exam # 2) will be given on the day we have Exam # 3 (December 5). No make-ups will be given for the last exam (Exam # 3).

No make-ups exams will be given without a verified excuse. Should an exam be missed you must contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. You will not be able to make-up the exam without verified documentation. Absolutely NO make-up exams without either, 1) a note from a doctor that a student was incapable of attending for medical reasons or 2) documentation of a death in the immediate family. Flat tires, conflicts with work or travel, etc. are not valid reasons for missing an exam and do not qualify for make-ups.

**Class communication:**
This is a large lecture class and it is important to establish a protocol for student-instructor interaction in order for you to receive timely advice. For questions you can contact the instructor or teaching assistants. You are welcome to communicate through email or to visit us by previously setting an appointment. To make sure that your email does not get buried in the pile of other emails I usually receive, on your subject line, please write: “GEA 3320:” to precede your e-mail purpose. I will respond to inquiries within 24-48 hours.

Cell phones must be off during class. No talking on the phone or texting. Laptop use is permitted for note-taking ONLY; violating the laptop policy means that you will not be allowed to use your laptop in class.

Please let the instructor know if you have any special needs. If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Upon contact, the DRC will review your request and contact your professors or other personnel to make arrangements for appropriate modification and/or assistance.

**Important Dates:**
- EXAM # 1: Monday, September 29.
- EXAM # 2: Monday, October 27.
- EXAM # 3: Friday, December 5.
- EXERCISE: Monday, October 13.
- Final project: Monday, November 10.

LAST DAY TO DROP THE CLASS WITH A DR/WI GRADE: Monday, November 3.
Weekly outline (subject to change)

Week # 1 (Aug. 25-27-29): Introduction
Reading: Introduction PPT and Chapter 1

Week # 2 (Sep. 3-5): The Caribbean Region
Caribbean Natural Landscapes
Reading: Introduction PPT and Chapter 1

Week # 3 (Sep. 8-10-12): Caribbean Natural Landscapes
Reading: Chapter 1

Natural Hazards and Disaster Management
Reading: Chapter 4

Week # 4 (Sep. 15-17-19): Natural Hazards and Disaster Management
Reading: Chapter 4
Pre-Contact Caribbean

TERM-PAPER: Article selection (due: Monday, September 15)

Week # 5 (Sep. 22-24-26): Pre-Contact Caribbean

Week # 6 (Oct. 1-3): Post-Contact Caribbean

EXAM # 1: Monday, September 29

Week # 7 (Oct. 6-8-10): Post-Contact Caribbean
Agriculture and Agrarian Structures
Reading: Chapter 3

Week # 8 (Oct. 13-15-17): Agriculture and Agrarian Structures
Reading: Chapter 3
Population and Migration
Reading: Chapter 2
EXERCISE: Geography of Food (due: Monday, October 13 at 11:59 PM – Turnitin.com).
Week # 9 (Oct. 20-22-24): Social Conditions
Reading: Chapter 5

Week # 10 (Oct. 29-31): Housing in the Caribbean
Reading: Chapter 6

**EXAM # 2: Monday, October 27**

Week # 11 (Nov. 3-5-7): Urban Dynamics and Townscapes
Reading: Chapter 7

Week # 12 (Nov. 12-14): Industrialization, Development and Economic Change
Reading: Chapter 8

**TERM-PAPER: Final Project (due: Monday, November 10 at 11:59 PM – Turnitin.com)**

Week # 13 (Nov. 17-19-21): Industrialization, Development and Economic Change
Reading: Chapter 8
Tourism, Environment, and Development
Reading: Chapter 11

Week # 14 (Nov. 24): Tourism, Environment, and Development
Reading: Chapter 11

Week # 15 (Dec. 1-3): Tourism, Environment, and Development
Reading: Chapter 11

**EXAM # 3: Friday, December 5**