Spring 2012
GEA 3320: GEOGRAPHY OF THE CARIBBEAN
M/W/F 9:00-9:50 AM, College of Business Complex 140

Course Homepage:  https://ecampus.fiu.edu

Professor: Dr. Ricardo M. Gonzalez
E-mail: rmgonzal@fiu.edu
T.A.: Jackal Tanelorn, MA
E-mail: jtane001@fiu.edu
Office Hours: M – W – F 11:10 AM to 1:00 PM, and from 3:10 to 4:00 PM (by appointment only; call (305) 348-2247).
Department Location: Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies
SIPA # 304
Department Phone: (305) 348-2247

This course provides an introduction to the geography of the Caribbean. The course studies the countries, subregions, 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. However, much of geographical information cannot be contained in any textbook, or covered by any length of lectures. In this class, you will be introduced to some tools for geographical exploration that range from searching for information to critically processing it. You will not be required to memorize trivial facts. Instead, I expect you to understand important concepts and explain processes and ideas that shape this region.

Goals:
At the end of the semester, I hope that you will:
● Have a basic grasp of the concepts and facts of Caribbean geography;
● Understand how human populations interact with their environments to make cultural landscapes;
● 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 the Caribbean region.

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. You are expected to attend class and participate. Please, don’t be late for class. If you have trouble attending, please let me know ahead of time. You are allowed to
miss no more than three (3) classes throughout the semester before affecting your attendance grade. During the last three weeks of the semester when students will present their research, it is mandatory to come to class, and attendance will count double during this period.

- **Map quizzes.** There will be 4 map quizzes during regular class time. These will be given unannounced starting on the 3rd week of classes.
- **Research Paper.** You will be writing a 10-12-page double-spaced typed, font 12, (not including illustrations and references) paper this semester due on or before March 26th; LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The paper should be written in a formal, expository style. Your paper will discuss the environmental history of a specific Caribbean location (island/s, territory, state, etc.) that I will assign to you. It should have a well-defined focus, address in a lucid introduction, and draw conclusions related to the stated research topic. A 15-minute power point presentation should also be included with your paper (on a CD, jump drive or sent via e-mail). A literature review of your paper that includes at least 5 references and one map is required to help you get started, and is due on or before January 30th. You must submit a draft paper of at least 5 pages on Monday, February 20th at the beginning of class (hardcopy – Moodle -turnitin). The writing process will not only enable you to learn more about the course subject material, but also give you a chance to do some library research and to write in an academic style. A guideline will be provided to help you organize, write, and appropriately reference your papers. During the last three weeks of class (weeks 13 - 15), each person should be prepare to present their research.
  On the due date you must submit an electronic copy using Moodle (turnitin) and your power point presentation via e-mail (sent to rmgonzal@fiu.edu) before coming to class, and a hard copy at the beginning of class.
- We will have three exams (non-cumulative).

### Grading

- Attendance and participation 50 points
- Map Quiz (3) 150 points
- Research paper 250 points
- Exam # 1 150 points
- Exam # 2 150 points
- Exam # 3 250 points
- **TOTAL** 1000 points

### 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 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 (if any), 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.

**Lectures:**

Class notes or other materials will be posted on Moodle (ecampus.fiu.edu).

**Due dates:**

The literature review and research paper must be received on the due date. Should you miss a class on the due date, you must contact me within 24 hours to receive authorization to turn in an assignment. No research paper will be accepted on or after the next meeting of the class.

**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 (April 16th). **No make-ups will be given for the last exam (Exam # 3).**

**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 the teaching assistant. You are welcome to communicate with us through e-mail or to visit us by previously setting an appointment -call the GSS Department to make an appointment (305-348-2247). To make sure that your e-mail does not get buried in the pile of other e-mails I usually receive, on your subject line, please write: “GEA 3320:” to precede your e-mail purpose. I will respond to inquiries within 48 hours.
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.

**Weekly outline  (subject to change)**

**Week 1 (Jan 9-11-13) Introduction**  
*Reading:* Chapter 1

**Week 2 (Jan 18-20) The Caribbean Region**  
*Caribbean Natural Landscapes*  
*Reading:* Chapter 1

**Week 3 (Jan 23-25-27) Caribbean Natural Landscapes**  
*Natural Hazards and Disaster Management*  
*Reading:* Chapter 1

**Week 4 (Jan 30-Feb 1-3) Natural Hazards and Disaster Management**  
*Pre-Contact Caribbean*  

*MONDAY, JAN. 30th: LITERATURE REVIEW DUE*

**Week 5 (Feb 8-10): Post-Contact Caribbean**  

*MONDAY, FEB. 6th: EXAM # 1*

**Week 6 (Feb 13-15-17): Post-Contact Caribbean**  
*Reading:* Handout  
*Population and Migration*  
*Reading:* Chapter 2

**Week 7 (Feb 20-22-24): Agriculture and Agrarian Structures**  
*Reading:* Chapter 3

*MONDAY, FEB. 20th: DRAFT PAPER DUE*

**Week 8 (Feb 27-29-Mar 2): Social Conditions**  
*Reading:* Chapter 5

**Week 9 (Mar 5-7-9): Housing in the Caribbean**
Reading: Chapter 6

*WEDNESDAY, MAR. 7th: EXAM #2*

Week 10 (Mar 12-14-16): SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (Mar 19-21-23): Urban Dynamics and Townscapes
Reading: Chapter 7
Industrialization, Development and Economic Change
Reading: Chapter 8

Week 12-14 (Mar 26-28-30, Apr 2-4-6-9-11-13): Tourism, Environment, and Development
Reading: Chapter 11
Globalization and the Caribbean
Reading: Chapter 10
Political Realities and the Caribbean
Reading: Chapter 12

*MONDAY, MAR. 26th: TERM-PAPER AND PPT DUE*

Week 13 – 15 (Apr 2-4-6-9-11-13-18-20) Presentation of Students’ Research Papers.

*MONDAY, APRIL 16th: EXAM #3*