

Description, Enrollment, Instructor, Books, Materials, Grading

Course Description

This course focuses on the geographical differences that exist within this important part of the world. Although "Middle America," as many prominent scholars call it, is our immediate neighbor to the south, Americans, or perhaps more appropriately "*norteamericanos*," often have an incomplete or even inaccurate understanding of the region. The region is in some respects like a tapestry or mosaic. For example, in reference to one very large portion of it, Mexico, Lesley Byrd Simpson once said: "There are many Mexicos." Here, the region is studied systematically by unraveling or breaking it into 12 sub-regions. Each is discussed in the context of its: (1) biophysical environments, (2) the ways in which people have adapted to and transformed it historically, and (3) the current economic, political, and cultural landscape.

This course is designed for all advanced students regardless of their specific interests. It is designed to introduce the region to those students with little or no knowledge of it, and to help students familiar with region to understand better its geographical attributes.

Enrollment Information

Course number: GRG 341K and LAS 330 Topic 2

Unique number: 37170 (GRG), and 40130 (LAS)

Meeting time: MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.

Meeting room: BUR 224

Prerequisite: Upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

Instructor Information

Instructor: [Dr. William E. Doolittle](#).

Office: GRG 306

Hours: by appointment made via email.

email: dolitl@austin.utexas.edu

Textbooks

There is NO textbook for this course. Instead, 1-2 readings for each class meeting will be available on *Blackboard*.

Copies of all the PowerPoint illustrations (slides) used in class will also be available on *Blackboard*. Students are strongly encouraged to print-out these illustrations ahead of time and use them in class to assist in taking notes.

Basis of Grading

- Three examinations made-up of 33 multiple choice questions each (30% each for 90%)
 - One exercise-based test, administered with the third exam, involving 20 fill in the blank questions, and two short-answer questions (10%)
 - Class participation, based largely but not exclusively on attendance. The course grade based on the three examinations and one test will be dropped one letter for four unexcused absences, two letters for seven unexcused absences, three letters for ten unexcused absences, four letters for 13 unexcused absences.
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<http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~wd/courses/341k/general/descrip.html>

Created by William E. Doolittle. Last revised 14 May 2010, wed