University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Curriculum Proposal Form #4A

Change in an Existing Course

Type of Action (check all that apply)

☒ Course Revision (*include course description & former and new syllabus)*
☐ Contact Hour Change and or Credit Change
☐ Diversity Option
☐ General Education Option
area: Select one: *
☐ Grade Basis
☐ Repeatability Change
☐ Other:

* Note: For the Gen Ed option, the proposal should address how this course relates to specific core courses, meets the goals of General Education in providing breadth, and incorporates scholarship in the appropriate field relating to women and gender.

Effective Term: 2141 (Spring 2014)

Current Course Number (*subject area and 3-digit course number*): GEOGRPY 365

Current Course Title: Geography of Middle America

Sponsor(s): Jonathan Burkham

Department(s): Geography and Geology

College(s): Letters and Sciences

List all programs that are affected by this change:

If programs are listed above, will this change affect the Catalog and Advising Reports for those programs? If so, have Form 2's been submitted for each of those programs?
(Form 2 is necessary to provide updates to the Catalog and Advising Reports)

☒ NA ☐ Yes ☐ They will be submitted in the future

Proposal Information: (*Procedures for form #4A*)

I. **Detailed explanation of changes** (use FROM/TO format)
FROM:
GEOGRPY 365 – Geography of Middle America
A study of the activities of the peoples of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, their problems in relation to their natural environment, and their problems as a transitional area between two large continents.

TO:

GEOGRPY 365 – **Geography of Latin America**
A study of the activities of the peoples of Mexico, Central America, **South America**, and the West Indies, **including means of addressing historical and contemporary issues of economic, social, cultural and political development across the Americas.**

II. **Justification for action**
The Geography of Middle America (GEOGRPY 365) has traditionally been taught at UWW as a separate course from the Geography of South America (GEOGRPY 363); however, GEOGRPY 363 has not been offered in several years and the instructor for both GEOGRPY 363 and GEOGRPY 365 is no longer with the department. In order to revive this material the Sponsor of this proposal would like to combine these two courses into a revised Geography of Latin America (GEOGRPY 365). These two regions, which together make up Latin America, are well-suited to be taught as a single course, due to similar historical geographies and contemporary development issues. Indeed, the current instructor has experience teaching Latin America as a single course following the revised description above and in accordance with the attached revised syllabus. A separate form (#4R) has been submitted to delete GEOGRPY 363 from the list of course offerings.

III. **Syllabus/outline** attached:
a. GEOGRPY 365 – Geography of Middle America Course Syllabus
b. Revised GEOGRPY 365 – Geography of Latin America Course Syllabus

Geography 365: Geography of Latin America
Course Syllabus

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

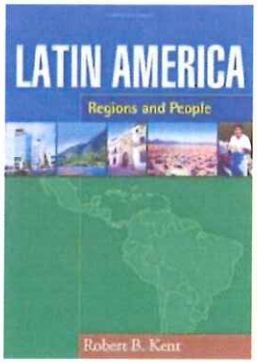
In this upper-level course we will examine the people and places of Latin America from a variety of perspectives using key geographical concepts. These concepts will be applied to regions within Latin America in order to understand how various physical and historical processes have given rise to dynamic and diverse cultural landscapes. This class will pay special attention to the situation of Latin America within processes of cultural, political, and economic globalization from colonialism to the present day. Through an understanding of these global processes we will observe how Latin America is as much a product of its position in the world as it is of local endogenous factors. Thus we will come to see how we're all in some way implicated in the development of our neighbors to the south. The challenges and opportunities of development in *America Latina* will be emphasized with ample case studies and critically analyzed through student research papers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1) To become familiar with the cultural, political, economic, urban, and environmental geographies of regions within Latin America.
2) To develop your geographic thinking by relating patterns and processes of various human activities throughout Latin America and beyond.
3) To develop your relational thinking by understanding other people in other parts of the world in terms that make sense to you.
4) To improve your research, writing, and critical thinking skills through the development and presentation of an original research paper.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook: Kent, Robert B. 2006. *Latin America: Regions and People, 1st Edition.* The Guilford Press: New York, pp. 422.



D2L: Aside from the textbook, additional readings and material for this course will be posted on the D2L website. **You are expected to check the D2L website regularly** for announcements, additional readings, assignment guidelines, lecture slides, discussions, and so on.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Evaluation: assignments and exams

- ✓ Midterm Map Exam: Your knowledge of the physical geography of Latin America and your ability to relate key geographical concepts and processes to particular places will be tested through the map exam. This midterm evaluation will entail far more than the memorization of particular places or geographical formations; rather, it's designed to measure your ability to apply your understanding of concept and process to place.

- ✓ Final Essay Exam: The final exam will test your ability to critically analyze particular issues in Latin America through short essay responses. The final exam will require a comprehensive understanding of key geographical concepts and how the apply to contemporary issues in Latin America. The final exam will consist of two or three essay questions.

- ✓ Research Paper and Presentation: Throughout the course you will be designing a paper on an issue of your choosing broadly related to theme of development in Latin America. Thus you can choose to investigate an issue at the scale of your choosing, from a local grassroots initiative to a national policy, within the field that most interests you, be it social, economic, environmental, or cultural. You will find that the deadlines for the research paper and presentation are many and start early. This will encourage you to engage with your project throughout the semester. This portion of the class, accounting for 38% of your overall grade, will be scored as follows:

Description of paper topic =	5 points
Outline and preliminary bibliography =	10 points
1st Draft =	10 points
Peer review =	10 points
2nd Draft =	10 points
Final Paper =	45 points
Paper Presentation =	10 points
TOTAL	100 points

- ✓ Class Participation: You are required to both attend class regularly and actively participate in class discussions. More than one unexcused absence may result in a lower class participation score. In addition to in-class participation, students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the "Class Commons" forum on the discussion page in D2L. This space is provided to encourage you to freely discuss current events and class material. Though it is a free and voluntary discussion, I ask you to be respectful of each others' opinions and perspectives. Although voluntary, those students who actively participate in the "Class Commons" may receive favorable treatment should they find themselves on the cusp of a higher letter grade. The discussion on "Class Material" is intended to give students a forum to ask

questions and/or express concerns and grievances about class material. "Class Material" postings can be carried out anonymously, without either the instructor or the students' knowledge of who you are. The instructor reserves the right to delete any posts he finds inappropriate.

2. Grading Basis

Midterm Map Exam =	60 points	23%
Final Essay Exam =	60 points	23%
Research Paper and Presentation =	100 points	38%
Class Attendance and Participation =	40 points	15%
TOTAL	260 points	100%

3. Guide to grades

93-100%	A	80-82%	B-	66-69%	D+
90-92%	A-	76-79%	C+	63-65%	D
86-89%	B+	73-75%	C	60-62%	D-
83-85%	B	70-72%	C-	0-59%	F

4. Contacting the Instructor

Please feel free to stop by the office of the instructor during office hours. I will also make myself available by appointment. I usually respond to emails between Monday and Friday within 24 hours.

5. Penalties for late work

To be fair to students who complete assignments on time, *points will be deducted for past due assignments.* I typically subtract about 10% of the point total for each day the assignment is late. If you know you will have a problem turning your work in on time or you feel that you are falling behind in the course, *please contact the instructor as soon as possible.* I will do my best to work with you to try to keep you on track.

6. Make-up exams

Again in the interest of fairness to all students, you may not retake exams or resubmit coursework *unless a documented medical or personal emergency arises.* In the event that you must be absent on the day of an exam, *you must contact me immediately* to reschedule the exam, and *provide official documentation* to justify a makeup exam.

7. Attendance Policy

You are expected to be present for each scheduled class session. In this course, reading assignments and lectures are intended to complement, not duplicate, one another. Indeed course exams are primarily based on lecture. Therefore, it is imperative that you maintain a solid attendance record. My experience strongly indicates that students who miss lectures do not perform as well as those who maintain strong attendance records.

8. Classroom Policies/Expectations

- Come to class prepared to take notes, listen to lectures, and engage in discussion.
- Updated lecture slides will be posted on D2L the night before lecture. *You are encouraged to print out lecture slides before class and supplement the slides with your handwritten notes.*
- Reading assignments should be completed before the lecture on each topic. Without adequate preparation on your part, some sections of lecture may be unclear.
- You will find course announcements, maps, and other additional materials on D2L. All students are responsible for materials and announcements posted to D2L and should check the site daily.
- On-time attendance is mandatory – do not arrive late or leave early as it disrupts your fellow classmates.
- Cell phones, mp3 players/iPods, or any other type of non-course related electronic equipment may not be used during class.
- You may use your laptop to take notes on the condition that you will not use it for non-course related purposes. The instructor reserves the right to revoke your laptop privileges should you violate that condition.
- Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, offering someone else's ideas, work or writing as your own, falsifying information, and copying from another person. If you cheat, you get a zero.
- Feel free to contact me (via email, office hours, or by appointment) as your questions/concerns arise. You will find that I am happy to work with you to resolve whatever issues may arise.

8. University Statement

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is dedicated to a safe, supportive, and non-discriminatory learning environment. It is the responsibility of all undergraduate and graduate students to familiarize themselves with University policies regarding Special Accommodations, Misconduct, Religious Beliefs Accommodation, Discrimination, and Absence for University Sponsored Events. (For details please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Timetables; the "Rights and Responsibilities" section of the Undergraduate Bulletin; the Academic Requirements and Policies and the Facilities and Services sections of the Graduate Bulletin; and the "Student Academic Disciplinary procedures" [UWS Chapter 14]; and the "Student Nonacademic Disciplinary Procedures" [UWS Chapter 17]).

9. Deadlines to Add, Drop, or change your Grade Basis

http://www.uww.edu/Documents/registrar/Registration%20page/Class%20Lists/2013/Spring/2013_Spring_Deadlines_Refunds.pdf

COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Topics and Activities	Readings	Research Paper Deadlines
1	Class Introduction; Latin America as a region	Ch 1 and Ch 2	
2	Climate, the environment, and climate change	Ch 3	
2	Setting the Stage for Colonialism	Ch 5	
3	The Hispanic Caribbean: from colonialism to imperialism; Developing your research topic	Ch 4	
3	The Mesa Central of Mexico and Culinary Culture	Ch 6 and Ch 12	
4	Early Cities and Urban Development	Ch 7	Description of paper topic
4	The Andes: A lesson in primary export dependency	Ch 8	
5	Race in Latin America: A focus on Brazil	Ch 9	
5	Searching academic journals: Library workshop		
6	The Central Valley of Chile: the neoliberal experiment	Ch 10	
6	The Central American Highlands: path dependent development	Ch 11	
7	Brazil's Atlantic Coastal Plain: the plantation economy and Rio de Janeiro	Ch 13	
7	Brazil's Southern Highlands: São Paulo and the Landless Workers Movement	Ch 15 and 12	Outline and Bibliography
8	The Pampas: breadbasket of South America	Ch 17	
8	The Amazon Basin: settling the frontier	Ch 19	
9	Midterm Study Session		
9	**Midterm Map Exam**		
10	Latin America in the World Economy	Ch 18	
10	Discussing Latin American Development: theories and evidence	Ch 16	1st Draft
11	Contemporary Political Geography: a shift to the left?	"The alternatives to neoliberalism"	
11	Peer Reviews of First Draft		Peer review
12	Population Geography and The Latin American Diaspora	Ch 9 (pp 164-169) and 14	
12	Transnationalism	Ch 20	2nd Draft
13	Student Paper Presentations		
13	Student Paper Presentations		

14	Student Paper Presentations		
14	Student Paper Presentations		
15	Student Paper Presentations		Final Paper
15	Final Exam Study Session		
	Final Exam		

GEOGRAPHY OF MIDDLE AMERICA (365)
FALL SEMESTER 2008
Section 1: MWF 9:55-10:45 am

Upham Hall, Room 0143
Instructor: Dr. Carol J. Rosen
Office: Upham 114
Phone: 262-472-5119 or 1071
Email: rosenc@uww.edu
Office Hours: MW 2-4 or other times by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVE: This course presents a general geographic overview of the region of Middle America which includes Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands. The area to be studied is one of the most culturally and physically diverse regions in the world. Both physical and cultural aspects of Middle America will be presented with emphasis placed upon human interaction with the natural world. Because of the instructor's field experience, most examples will come from Belize, Cuba, Guatemala, and Mexico.

REQUIRED TEXT:
Latin America & the Caribbean: Lands and Peoples, 4th edition, by David L. Clawson, McGraw Hill, 2004. Available from textbook rental.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular Attendance
2. Completion of five worksheets
3. A passing grade on three exams
4. Viewing of videos presented in class, or streaming videos presented through D2L. All video presentations are considered course material, and will/can be part of the exams and worksheets.

GRADING:
Exam One: 25 percent of total grade
Exam Two: 25 percent of total grade
Exam Three: 25 percent of total grade
Five Online Worksheet Assignments: 25 percent of total grade

The date of each exam will be announced at least one week in advance. The exam format may be objective and/or essay. **All exams are mandatory and make-up exams will not be given without a valid, official, excuse. Points will be deducted for all late exams and late worksheet assignments.**

Numerical Grades and Equivalent Letter Grades:

A (93-100) A- (90-92) B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82) C+ (77-79)
C (73-76) C- (70-72) D+(67-69) D (63-66) D- (60-62) F (below 60)

It is my unwavering policy NOT to change your final score in the class, unless I have made an error in calculating. It is your responsibility to keep up with the class by checking in regularly and in addition, keeping track of your grades posted on d2l. Your final grade in the course will be based on your final score as stated above. **No exceptions or allowances whatsoever.**

Engaging in plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of misconduct will result in an appropriate penalty, as identified in UWS Chapter 14.

COURSE OUTLINE and SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

INTRODUCTION

SYLLABUS
COURSE FRAMEWORK
INTRODUCTORY READINGS
MAP ANALYSIS
MEXICO and IMMIGRATION/EXERCISE ONE

Reading: Chapter One of Textbook

THE PHYSICAL/CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

LAND AND PEOPLE
NATURAL HAZARDS
ENVIRONMENTS
BELIZE: ITS LAND AND PEOPLE

Reading: Chapters 2-4

THE HISTORICAL/CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
SPANISH CONQUEST
THE SLAVE TRADE

Reading: Chapters 5-9

CASE STUDIES/ CURRENT GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES

CASE STUDY: CUBA
CASE STUDY: GUATEMALA

Reading: Chapters 10-13