

GEOGRAPHY 155: Latin American Geography

Paper Assignment

**Due: March 5 (please submit a paper and an electronic copy to me at:
carr@geog.ucsb.edu)**

Option 1: Policy report

Write a policy report, maximum of 3 pages single-spaced in Times 12 point font, recommending an economic, environmental, or social policy of your choice for a Latin American country. Use data to support your policy argument. Include a table of the data for the country (not included in the page limits). Your report should focus on one major policy. However, you should justify with data the need for your policy and describe the potential outcomes of your policy on at least on demographic, economic, social, political, and environmental indicator. You should also describe how the spatial scale and location matter in the ideation and implementation of your policy. The paper will be graded on substance (85%) and writing style (15%). The paper will count for 30% of the final class grade. Good sources for data are available at: <http://devdata.worldbank.org/data-query/> and at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>.

For a brief background of the country you select you may refer to the CIA country Fact Book at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>. Referencing a handful of external sources regarding one or both of your selected countries could strengthen your arguments. Refer to the syllabus to see how to ace this assignment. Compare the following data for 2004 (or most recent available date):

Some suggested demographic indicators

Total population, Annual population growth rate and doubling time (calculate the latter yourself), Fertility Rate (TFR), Life Expectancy at birth, Malnutrition prevalence, weight for age (% of children under 5), Percent of the total population rural (go to: <http://esa.un.org/unpp/>), Net migration

Some suggested economic indicators

Labor force per occupation (%), GDP - composition by sector (%), GNP per capita, Percent of population below the poverty line, Choose one other economic indicator of your choice

Social development indicators

Male and female literacy rate, Internet users (express as a percentage of the total population), Choose one other social development indicator of your choice

Political indicators

Type of government, Level of suffrage, Choose one other political indicator of your choice.

Environmental indicators

Co2 emissions per capita, Energy used per capita (kg of oil equivalent), Annual deforestation (% change).

Option 2: Field assignment

Write a research report, maximum of 2 pages single-spaced in Times 12 point font, addressing an issue of importance to Latino migrants or Latino migration. For the assignment interview at least one Latino migrant and cite at least 2 sources relating to the topic of choice. Potential topics include: migration determinants, remittance (money sent back to family in home countries) investments, public service needs, housing needs, transportation needs, and the importance of cultural differences.

Option 3: Human-environment interactions

Write a paper, maximum of 2 pages single-spaced in Times 12 point font, exploring an example of how environmental conditions constrain society and/or how humans impact the environment in Latin America. The paper can explore a historical or current topic. The paper could also explore the potential for future changes in such interactions (for example based on technological changes, or changes in population dynamics).

Option 4: You call it

Write a paper, maximum of 2 pages single-spaced in Times 12 point font, addressing any issue of importance to Latin American Geography.

Please feel free to contact me about ideas.