

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION (include prerequisites)

This course will examine the economics of developing countries, from Colonialism to present, concentrating on the Latin American countries of Peru, and Argentina. Current financial status in these countries will be scrutinized through an in-depth look at their monetary/fiscal policy. The course will also address the eco-economy and its relationship to tourism as an integral part of the Gross Domestic Product of these countries.

Required readings: Motorcycle Diaries by Ernesto "Che" Guevara, The Other Path by Hernando DeSoto, The Kimchi Matters by Marvin Zonis.

Required films: Motorcycle Diaries

B. DATE LAST REVISED (use current date): October 11, 2004

C. RECOMMENDED ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE:

College-level reading skills.

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

Economic and political systems in Peru and Argentina

Monetary policy

IMF/World Bank positions

Exchange Rates

Trade Agreements

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL):

The students will:

- Explain the past and current economic conditions of the Latin American countries studied, using GDP per capita data, unemployment figures, inflation/recession data and other economic indicators
- Gain a knowledge of Colonialism (Peru) and Peronism (Argentina) and the effects on today's economy in each country
- Develop a background of "The Missing" in Argentina, with awareness of its origins and its long-term effects
- Understand how political and economic power have disrupted public goods, including education
- Define and explain the exchange rates used by each country, along with effects of devaluation (Argentina)
- Discuss the effects of the trade agreement(s) currently used and those being proposed
- Relate the effect of preservation of the eco-economy as related to tourism sites and the health of the country's economy
- Gain a knowledge of the positions of the countries with the IMF and the World Bank and how these positions affect the world economy
- Understand the role of the United States in the IMF and World Bank

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum)

Social Science:

- Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
- Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

Global Perspective:

- Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
- Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future

G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:

Student projects

Oral presentations

Classroom discussions

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION : This is an Honors Course and will provide an additional choice of courses for those pursuing an honors AA degree at RCTC. There is a growing interest in ecology throughout the world; this course will address that issue in some of the developing countries in Latin America.