GEOG 3770 – Latin America: Geography & Globalization. – The rate and scale of human transformations of the environment are at an all-time high. Most often, these transformations outpace our ability to understand their causes and effects. However, it is clear that human demands for food, drugs, energy, and resources are major drivers of environmental and cultural change. This course focuses on the commodification of key Latin American resources, and in particular drugs and narcotics, and shows how the commodities we consume on a daily basis link us to peoples and environments in distant regions. Indeed, these types of linkages embody geographical inquiries that synthesize historical, environmental, economic, and cultural development. Principle course objectives are for students to: 1. Identify the basic biophysical (environmental) characteristics of Latin America. 2. Use a geographical lens to analyze the making, meanings, and outcomes of resource production. 3. Analyze regional developments and learn to interpret diverse forms of data and imagery (e.g. maps, graphs) to enhance analyses. This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Diversity and Global Issues. Students should be able to do at least three of the following: 1. Identify the origins, influences, and limits of one’s own cultural heritage. 2. Demonstrate the ability to learn from and empathize with perspectives and experiences different from one’s own. 3. Show an understanding of the interrelationships of the self, local society, and global environments. 4. Describe the impacts of complex, worldwide systems. 5. Explain the reasoning for one’s ethical responsibilities within worldwide systems.