Course Outline

Week 1:
General introduction to Latin America
  Map making
  Geography
  Basic language and culture

Start Unit 1: Pre-Columbian Civilizations: The Maya

Week 2:
Continue with Unit 1: The Maya
  Key concepts:
    Indigenous culture and language
    Belief systems and worldview
    Environment and agriculture
    Number system and astronomy
    Persistence of culture after conquest
  Possible activities:
    *Popol Vuh* Film screening
    *Living Maya* Film screening

Week 3:
Finish Unit 1, begin Unit 2

Unit 2: The Caribbean
  Key concepts:
    Arrival of Columbus in Caribbean
    Colonial period and slavery
    Unique multicultural history
      African cultural influences (music, dance, food)
    Connections with New Orleans (and the greater United States)
    Contemporary issues
      Tourism
      Poverty
      Hardships of life
  Possible Activities
    Videos on popular culture
    Music from *Latin Playground*
Week 4:
Continue with Unit 2

Week 5:
Unit 3 – Brazil and the Southern Cone
Key concepts:
- Basic country info
  - Language
  - Regions
  - Correlations with U.S.
  - Size
  - Geographical variation
  - Ethnic and racial diversity
- Contemporary history
  - Brazilian and other southern cone dictatorships
  - Cultural imperialism
- Social stratification
  - Urban vs. rural
  - Favelas
- Popular culture:
  - Music (samba, funk, hip-hop, rock)
  - Dance
  - Carnival
  - Capoeira
  - Soccer

Week 6 “Wonder Week”

Week 7 Spring Break

Week 8
Continuation of Unit 3 – Brazil
Possible activities
- Activities from web
- Videos
- Music demonstrations
- Possible capoeira and/or samba demonstration
- Dance lesson

Week 9:
Unit 4 – Andes
Key concepts
- Indigenous traditions
- Folk culture
- Current challenges of indigenous groups
Possible Activities
Week 10:
Unit 5 – Latinos in the United States and Course Wrap-up
Key concepts:
   Reasons / geography of migration
Special cases:
   Mexico
   Puerto Rico
Latino influence on US
   Changing and adapting cultures and traditions