

US - Latin American Relations (Fall 2016)

Professor: Miguel Carreras

Course meets: Tuesday & Thursday: 3:40 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Sproul Hall (SPR 1340)

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Office hours: Wednesday: 9 am - 11 am (2232 Watkins Hall)

Course Description

This course studies the relations between the United States and Latin America. We begin with an overview of the theories and concepts employed by political science in the study of international relations, and examine how these may be applied to international relations in the Americas. We will then identify the main actors in U.S. policymaking in the region, discuss different theories that seek to explain U.S.-Latin American relations, and examine the history of U.S.-Latin American relations from the colonial period to World War II. The second part of the course will deal with U.S.-Latin American relations during the Cold War, from 1945 to 1990. The topics examined here will include the Cuban missile crisis and the Bay of Pigs, U.S. support for South American military regimes, and U.S. policy toward guerrilla movements in Central America. The final section of the course will examine current issues in U.S.-Latin American relations, including economic ties, immigration, narcotics and the promotion of democracy.

Course Requirements

There will be two exams, held in week 5 and finals' week. The first exam will count for 25% of your grade and the final exam also 25 %. Exams will be comprised of short questions (definitions of terms and brief explanations of concepts) and longer essay questions. Another important component of your grade will be a term paper due on December 9, 2016 (*papers received late will be penalized with 10 points per day*). The paper will count for 30% of your grade. The remaining portion of your grade (20%) will be based on your participation in section. That participation will be evaluated based on your attendance, contribution to the discussion and on quizzes or assignments to be determined by your TA. You will receive a separate syllabus for the section and you should first address any concerns you may have regarding the section with the TA.

Grading

Mid-term exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Paper: 30%

Participation in section: 20%

Grading Scale

A+ 100 – 97 / A 96.9 – 93 / A- 92.9 – 90

B+ 89.9 – 87 / B 86.9 – 83 / B- 82.9 – 80

C+ 79.9 – 77 / C 76.9 – 73 / C- 72.9 – 70

D+ 69.9 – 67 / D 66.9 – 63 / D- 62.9 – 60

F / Below 60

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every lecture, every week. I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

In addition to the lectures, students must participate in a weekly discussion section. Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of these discussion sections. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. Your TA will provide more detailed information about the expectations regarding participation and assignments in the sections.

Every effort should be made to be present for the exams. Students who miss an exam will be given an alternate test at a mutually convenient time *only if the absence was excused*. Excused absences require official documentation and are at the discretion of the TA and the professor.

Tips for Success:

- Take notes on the reading and during lecture.
- Keep up with the weekly reading assignments and come to class ready to discuss the readings.
- Come by my office hours. This is a two hour window when I will be available to talk with you on a one-to-one basis. You should feel free to bring questions, discuss assignments, or just stop by to talk about contemporary political issues (related to the course).

Students with Disabilities

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact me or your TA as early as possible in the course about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially and with the resources provided by Student Special Services.

Academic Integrity

Cheating in any form is a deeply serious offense. Students who attempt to cheat will be subject to disciplinary procedures. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with UCR's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures and are *required to read the Academic Integrity Guidelines posted on iLearn*. More information on what constitutes cheating and other forms of academic misconduct is available at: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnpolicies/academicintegrity.html>

Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices

Silence or shut off your phone and stow it away before class begins. Absolutely no texting during class will be tolerated. Laptops and other devices are to be used for note-taking only; internet browsing and other distracting activities during class time are unacceptable. Failure to abide by these rules will result, at minimum, in a significant reduction of the participation grade.

Readings

There are **two required books** for this course:

Smith, Peter. 2013. *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations* (fourth edition). New York: Oxford University Press.

Kennedy, Robert. 1999. *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*. New York, W.W. Norton

We are also going to be reading selected chapters from the following books:

Schoultz, Lars. 1998. *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Rabe, Stephen. 2012. *The Killing Zone: The United States Wages Cold War in Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Crandall, Russell C. 2008. *The United States and Latin America after the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

We will also read (and discuss) a few primary documents every week, which will be taken from the following book:

Holden, Robert H. & Eric Zolov. 2011. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History* (second edition). New York: Cambridge University Press.

These books are not required for purchase, although you might consider making some of the titles part of your personal library. *All these readings are available on iLearn (under "course materials")*.

No prior knowledge of Latin American history and politics is assumed or required in this course, but for students who are not familiar with the region it is highly recommended to read this great introductory book to the history of Latin America:

Chasteen, John C. (2011) *Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America* (third edition). New York: W. W. Norton.

Term Paper

The term paper will consist of research on the relations between the U.S. and a Latin American country or a specific policy issue involving the United States and Latin American countries.

1) If you decide to write a paper on the relations between the U.S. and a specific Latin American country, you are to address the following:

- a. The most important issues or problems in the relationship between the two countries.
- b. How each country defines its interests regarding those issues;
- c. What specific policy arrangements exist between the U.S. involving those issues (treaties, agreements, negotiated understandings, etc.);
- d. Your own assessment of US policies regarding that country (whether you agree with U.S. policies, what policies should the US be following, etc.);
- e. Where you see our relationship with that country headed over the next decade given present trends.

2) If you select to explore a specific policy issue or arena, you are expected to:

- a. Define the policy or issue problem;
- b. Delineate how the U.S. perceives its interests and how Latin Americans view their interests on that issue;
- c. What policy instruments (economic, political, diplomatic, socio/cultural) and what courses of action have been taken by each country regarding that issue? What U.S. government departments are in charge of this policy arena and what internal problems are they confronting in carrying out U.S. policy?
- d. What consequences have followed the actions of the U.S. and of the Latin American country in this policy arena?
- e. For the United States, what policy recommendations do you have regarding the issue. (This is the analytical part and it is very important in showing how well you understand the issue.)

Here are some policy arenas that you might want to research. This is a suggested list and not a required list of topics.

- The U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America
- Plan Colombia: A Critical Analysis
- Trade Policies and Their Consequences on U.S. – Latin America Relations
- Immigration/Migration Policies and Their Consequences for U.S. Relations with Latin America. (This would cover more than Mexico and would compare the differences in U.S. immigration policies for different countries.)
- US Policy towards Cuba: Domestic and Regional Influences.
- International Crime and U.S – Latin American Relations (includes more than drugs and covers issues such as gangs, money laundering, illicit trafficking in weapons and human beings).
- The National Endowment for Democracy and U.S. Promotion of Democracy in Latin America
- U.S. Policies and their Impact on the Environment in Latin America
- Energy Resources and U.S. Policy

- U.S. Policy and Populist (leftist) Movements and Governments in Latin America. The governments can include Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Argentina.
- Conflict and Cooperation on the U.S. Mexico Border and Their Impact on U.S.-Mexico Relations (focus on border issues)
- The Global War on Terror and Its Effect on U.S.-Latin American Relations.

The country or issue area that you will assess must be selected by October 18, 2016. The paper is to be of no less than twelve pages in textual length (with normal margins and a font size no larger than 12). You must use at least 10 academic/policy references to write your paper (i.e. books, book chapters, academic articles, primary sources, and policy reports). You can also consult newspapers and news magazines.

To study more in-depth certain topics, it is recommended to consult some of the specialized journals found in the UCR Library, including among them: *Latin American Politics and Society* (formerly known as the *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*), the *Journal of Latin American Studies*, the *Latin American Research Review*, the *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, and *Latin American Perspectives*. One of the best web sites containing information on Latin America and U.S.-Latin American relations is LANIC (Latin American Network Information Center) maintained by the University of Texas [Electronic address: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>]. Other useful online sources include the website of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), the website of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the website of the Latin America Studies Program in the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and the website of the Inter-American Dialogue, the website of the Brookings Latin America Initiative. COHA is located at <http://www.coha.org>, WOLA is located at <http://www.wola.org>, Inter-American Dialogue is located at <http://www.thedialogue.org>, the Latin America Studies Program in the Council of Foreign Relations is located at <http://www.cfr.org/thinktank/lasp/>, and the Brookings Latin America Initiative is located at <http://www.brookings.edu/about/projects/latin-america>. In all these websites, you will find the information organized by topics and countries as well as a number of links to other important sites that may be useful to consult before the class discussions, and to write the final paper.

The paper will be due on December 9, 2016 and there will be no exceptions to this deadline. You are required to upload your paper using *Safe Assign*.

Course Schedule and Readings

September 22

General Introduction

No readings.

September 27 &
29

Framework for US-Latin American Relations

Smith, introduction

Schoultz, preface

Galeano, Eduardo (1973). *The Open Veins of Latin America*. New York: Monthly Review Press, introduction.

Snyder, Jack (2004). "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy* November-December: 53-62.

Morgenthau, Hans (2013). "Six Principles of Political Realism" in Robert Art & Robert Jervis (eds.) *International Politics*. New York: Pearson/Longman, pp. 7-14.

Dos Santos, Theotonio (2003). "The Structure of Dependence" in Mitchell Seligson & John Passé-Smith (eds.) *Development and Underdevelopment: the Political Economy of Global Inequality*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, pp. 193-202.

October 4

Monroe Doctrine, Manifest Destiny, & US Imperialism

Smith, chapters 1-2

Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 13-16, 23-25, & 41-44

October 6

Spanish-American War & Platt Amendment

Schoultz, chapter 8

Smith, chapter 3

Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 71-77 & 82-83

October 11

Panama Canal & Intervention in Nicaragua

Schoultz, chapter 9

Kinzer, Stephen (2006) *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*. New York: Times Books, chapter 3.

Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 86-90, 93-100, 124-126

- October 13** **Dollar Diplomacy & the Good Neighbor Policy**
Schoultz, chapter 11
Smith, chapter 4
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 133-140 & 147-149
- October 18** **Framework for US-Latin American Relations during the Cold War**
Smith, chapter 5
Rabe, chapter 2
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 181-189
- October 20** **Early Cold War Interventions: Guatemala (1954) & Cuba (Batista through the Bay of Pigs)**
Smith, pages 151-161
Rabe, chapter 3
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 192-196
- October 25** **Midterm Exam**
- October 27** **The Cuban Missile Crisis**
Kennedy, Robert (2012). *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis*. New York: W. W. Norton
- November 1** **Kennedy's Alliance for Progress**
Schoultz, chapter 18
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 221-223 & 227-229
- November 3** **Covert Activities – U.S. & Military Regimes in South America**
Rabe, chapter 6
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 243-247, 277-280, 284-287, & 292-293
- November 8** **U.S. and Central America in the 1980s**
Rabe, chapter 7
Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 302-309 & 315-318

November 10

Trade and Economics

Smith, chapters 9 & 10

Documents: Report to the US Congress (2011): “U.S.-Latin America Trade: Recent Trends and Policy Issues”

November 15

Democracy Promotion after the Cold War

Crandall, chapter 3

Isaacs, Anita (2000). “International Assistance for Democracy: A Cautionary Tale” in Jorge Domínguez (ed.) *The Future of Inter-American Relations*. New York: Routledge, pp. 259-286.

November 17

Immigration Politics and Policy

Smith, chapter 13

Weeks, chapter 10

Documents: Remarks by President Obama in Address to the Nation on Immigration (November 20, 2014)

November 22

Drug Trafficking, Drug Wars

Smith, chapter 14

Crandall, chapter 7

Documents: Holden & Zolov, pages 378-382

November 24

Thanksgiving (no class)

November 29

Obama Administration & the Future of U.S.-Latin American Relations

Smith, chapter 15

Hakim, Peter (2006). “Is Washington Losing Latin America?” *Foreign Affairs* 85 (1): 39-53

Documents: *Washington Post Article*: “Obama moves to normalize relations with Cuba as American is released by Havana” (12/17/2014)

December 1

Review / Wrap-up

FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 7, 2016 (7 pm - 10 pm)