



POL 4445: Inter-American Relations

~Fall 2011~

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES. Inter-American Relations analyzes interstate relationships in the Americas (i.e., the western hemisphere) with an emphasis on U.S.-Latin American relations with some attention to Canada and the Caribbean. The course examines the relevant actors, issues and political history of the region as it pertains to interaction of these states. Attention is given to current policy topics of significance to the Americas, e.g., drugs, immigration, security and trade.

READINGS. There are two required texts for the course plus other readings that will take the form of handouts, online readings, or materials obtained from library databases.

Domínguez, Jorge I. and Rafael Fernández de Castro. 2009. *The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict.*, 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge.

Weeks, Gregory. 2008. *U.S. and Latin American Relations.* New York: Pearson Longman.

Dr. Taylor's [Classroom Rules](#). (*especially* my attendance, plagiarism & Wikipedia policies)

Additional readings as noted below.

GRADING. Students will be evaluated on a standard 100 point scale (A=100-90, B=89.9-80, C=79.9-70, D=69.9-60, F=59.9-0). Grades will not be curved.

Keep in mind the following: A=Outstanding, B=Above Average, C=Average, D=Below Average and F=Failing. If you need a particular grade, start working towards it from DAY ONE. It is difficult to be sympathetic to students who “need to get X, but who did not put effort into the course from the start of the term.

Breakdown

Exams (2) (Mid-term 9/28; Final, 12/8)	50%
Research Project	
Proposal/Annotated Bibliography (due: 10/12)	5%
Paper (10-12 pps, due 12/5)	35%
Class Participation	10%

Writing Assignment. Each student will choose a research topic related to one of the policy issues from the second unit of the course. Each paper will be 10-12. See the [Writing Assignment](#) page for more information. As part of the overall assignment, each student will prepare a proposal with an annotated bibliography of 10 scholarly sources. Course materials may be used for the paper, but do not count towards the required sources.

Both the paper and the proposal need to be uploaded to Turnitin.com. This will be available in the Blackboard shell.

I still need a hard copy of the work turn in to me.

Online Study Guide. Students will be expected to contribute weekly based on the readings and the lectures, leaving comments concerning why they added what they added. I will go back and edit the document as needed. We will use the Wiki function in Blackboard to construct the study guide.

The exams will be based off the study guide.

Students who failed to participate will not only lose 10% off their exam, but will not be allowed to participate in in-class reviews.

The exact process will be discussed in class.

Participation. All students are expected to read the assigned materials prior to the start of class. Class discussion is a vital part of any college class. Students who fail to read and participate will be penalized.

ADA Policy: Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that postsecondary students with

disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link: <http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm> .

Cell Phone and Other Electronic Device Policy. Use of any electronic device by students in the instructional environment is prohibited unless explicitly approved on a case-by-case basis by the instructor of record or by the Office of Disability Services in collaboration with the instructor. Cellular phones, pagers, and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, however, but sending or receiving non-emergency messages is forbidden by the University. Particularly, use of a communication device to violate the Troy University “Standards of Conduct” will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See the Oracle.)

In order to receive emergency messages from the University or family members, the call receipt indicator on devices must be in the vibration mode or other unobtrusive mode of indication. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls must answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they must move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area and notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. Students who are expecting an emergency call should inform the instructor before the start of the instructional period.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

8/17: Course Intro and basic intro to the region

I. INTRO TO INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS (8/22)

Weeks, C1

II. POLITICAL HISTORY

A. The Nineteenth Century/Early Twentieth (8/24, 8/29)

Weeks, C2-C4

B. The Cold War Era (8/31, 9/7, 9/12, 9/14)

Videos (CNN’s *Cold War*: “Backyard” and “Cuba”)

Weeks, C5-C7

9/5: Labor Day Holiday

C. Post-Cold War Era (9/19, 9/21)

Raymond handout

Smith handout.

Casteñeda, Jorge. 2006. "Latin America's Left Turn" *Foreign Affairs*.

Shifter, "Obama and Latin America" New Beginnings and Old Frictions" *Current History*.

9/26: Wrap-up and overflow

9/28: Mid-Term Exam

II. THE KEY RELATIONSHIP: THE US AND MEXICO (10/3, 10/5, 10/10, 10/12)

Dominguez and Fernandez, complete

Gonzalez, "Drug Violence isn't Mexico's Only Problem" *Current History*

10/12: Proposals Due

III. ADDITIONAL KEY CASES

A. Colombia (10/17, 10/19)

Arnson and Tickner

Taylor (Handout)

B. Venezuela (10/31)

Romero and Corrales.

Shifter, Michael. 2006. "In Search of Hugo Chávez." *Foreign Affairs*

C. Brazil (11/2)

Burges. "Brazil as Regional Leader: Meeting the Chávez Challenge." *Current History*.

Hirst

Hurrell. 2010. "Brazil and the New Global Order." *Current History*.

IV. POLICY ISSUES IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

A. Trade/Economics (11/7)

Weeks, C8

Farnsworth. 2011. "The New Mercantilism: China's Emerging Role in the Americas." *Current History*.

B. Immigration (11/9, 11/14)

Weeks, C9

Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. [The Hispanic Challenge](#). *Foreign Policy*

Citrin, Jack, Amy Lerman, Michael Murakami, and Kathryn Pearson. 2007. Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity? *Perspectives on Politics* (March): 31-48.

Jacoby, Tamar. 2006. Immigration Nation. *Foreign Affairs*. New York: 85, 6 (November/December).

C. Humans Rights and Democracy (11/16)

Weeks, C10

Youngers and Rosin (handout).

11/21-11/25: Happy Fall Break/Thanksgiving!

D. Security (Drugs and Terrorism) (11/28, 11/30, 12/5)

Weeks, C11

Isacson, Adam. 2011. "Why Latin America is Rearming" *Current History*.

Tickner (handout).

TBA on Mexican drug cartels.

Shifter, "Central America's Security Predicament." *Current History*.

Weeks, Gregory. 2006. Fighting Terrorism While Promoting Democracy: Competing Priorities in U.S. *Journal of Third World Studies*. 23, 2 (Fall). [ProQuest]

Video: *Killing Pablo*.

12/7: Dead Day

12/8 (Thursday): Final Exam, 2-4pm