



## **IR 6641: Latin America in World Affairs**

~Fall 2011~

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course examines the relevant actors, issues and political history of the region as it pertains to the interaction of the states of the western hemisphere. Attention is given to the basic politics of Latin American states and to the current policy topics of significance to the Americas, e.g., drugs, immigration, security and trade.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon completion of the of the course, students should have achieved the following:

- An understanding of the basic political context of Latin America.
- An understanding of the basic context (both practical and theoretical) of inter-American relations.
- A detailed understanding of current US-Mexican relations.
- An understanding of the basic topics that dominant current inter-American.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Read the assigned texts and supplemental articles and be prepared to discuss them in class—students will be responsible for leading class discussion on a rotating schedule.

- Each student must brief the class on a specific country and specific policy topic. Each briefing will include a 10 minute PowerPoint presentation, a hand-out and an 8-10 page report handed in to Dr. Taylor. Due dates will be determined by when the country/topic arises on the syllabus.
- Complete a final examination.

**READINGS.** There are four required texts for the course:

Fukuyama, Francis, ed. 2008. *Falling Behind: Explaining the Development Gap Between Latin America and the United States.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

Domínguez, Jorge I. and Rafael Fernández de Castro. 2010. *Contemporary U.S.-Latin American Relations: Cooperation or Conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?* New York: Routledge.

Smith, Peter H. 2008. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States and the World.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Additionally, there will be online readings and handouts that all students will be expected to read.

**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.

### **Breakdown**

Country Report and Presentation	20%	Starts 9/19
Proposal/Annotated Bibliography	5%	10/31
Paper presentation	5%	11/30 or 12/5
Research Paper	30%	11/30 or 12/5
Final Exam	30%	12/12
Participation	10%	

**Research Project.** The research project for IR 6641 will focus on a specific country (assigned in class) and will culminate in a 20-25 page research paper that analyzes a policy-specific manner in which that country is relevant to either US foreign policy or to general hemispheric relations.

Each student will have their own specific state to analyze and will produce the following:

- Class presentation (15-20 minutes) briefing the class on the given country. This briefing should include basics on geography, history, politics, and relevance to US foreign policy.

Students will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and a briefing handout (which should include a review of a book relevant to this subject). Students will also assign two articles (or book chapters) on the given country to the class (in advance) that will serve as the basis for part of class discussion on the subject. Presentations will correspond to date country is scheduled on the syllabus.

- Research proposal and annotated bibliography (12 sources, 10 of which must be scholarly). These sources may include the two articles assigned to the class, but may not include course materials.
- 12-15 minute class presentation (including a PowerPoint presentation) on paper (along the lines of a conference presentation).
- Final paper (20-25 pps.)

**Final Exam.** Final exam will be an in-class, essay exam consisting of two questions. A pool of questions will be provided at the end of the course.

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE**

8/17: Intro and Overview

#### I. Basics and Background of US-Latin American Relations

##### A. The Imperial Era

Smith, C1-C3 (8/22)

##### B. The Cold War

Smith, C4-C6 (8/24)

##### C. Decade of Uncertainty (8/29)

Smith, C7-C9

8/31: Videos: CNN's *Cold War*: "Cuba" and "Backyard"

9/5: Labor Day Holiday

##### D. The War on Terror (9/7 & 9/12)

Smith, C10-C12

Domínguez and Fernández, C1

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

## II. Country-Specific Relations

### A. Colombia (9/14)

D&F, C9 + Taylor (Handout) and Crandall (Handout)

### B. Cuba (9/19)

D&F, C3 + Student presentation articles

### C. Argentina (9/21)

D&F, C6 + Student presentation articles

### D. Brazil (9/26)

D&F, C7 + Student presentation articles

### E. Chile (9/28)

D&F, C8 + Student presentation articles

### F. Peru (10/3)

D&F, C10 + Student presentation articles

### G. Venezuela (10/5)

D&F, C11 + Student presentation articles

### H. Central America and the Caribbean (10/10)

D&F, C4 & C5 + Student presentation articles

## III. US-Mexican Relations

### A. Overview (10/12)

D&F, C2 + Student presentation articles

D&F, C2

### B. The Evolution of US-Mexican Relations

D&F 2009, complete (10/17, 10/19, 10/31, 11/2)

IV. Latin American Development

Fukuyama, complete (11/7, 11/9, 11/14, 11/19)

11/21-11/25 Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28 Overflow

11/30 & 12/5: Presentations

12/12 (Monday): Final Exam (8-10am)