GOV 312L (FALL 2012)
ISSUES AND POLICIES IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT:
U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS
(38645)

COURSE MEETINGS: Lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:30 p.m. in Mezes 1.306.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will analyze the origins and consequences of U.S. policies toward Latin America. The first third of the course provides some basic background on U.S.-Latin American relations. We will 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.

This course offers an optional Supplemental Instruction (SI) discussion section in conjunction with the Sanger Learning and Career Center. Your TA will hold this discussion section twice a week for one hour (Note: the same material will be covered in both sections). The section will cover course material as well as other skills that are vital for college success such as how to organize information, test prep and test taking skills, and critical thinking and writing skills. There is a consistent and strong correlation between grades and SI attendance and you are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be assessed based on a 5-6 page research paper worth 20 points, and 3 in-class examinations. The first two examinations, which will include both multiple choice and essay questions, are each worth 30 points. The 3rd examination, which will include only multiple choice questions, is worth 20 points. The examinations will be held on **Sept. 24, Oct. 31, and Dec. 5.** The research paper, which must deal with some current issue in U.S. Latin American relations, is due on **Nov. 28** in class. There is no final exam.

In order to calculate your final grade, I will sum all of the points you have received in the class and convert the points into letter grades using the following scale:

93 and above = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67- 69 = D+
63-66 = D
60-62 = D-
Below 60 = F

I will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. I do not allow extra credit assignments and no exceptions will be made to the above system of grading.

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Students who violate University rules on plagiarism and scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For further information on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please see: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

I allow students with a reasonable excuse (e.g., an illness) to make up one exam per semester without penalty. Students who need to miss a class due to a religious holiday should notify me at least fourteen days prior to the holiday. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

REQUIRED TEXTS (All books will be available for purchase at the University Co-op and on reserve at PCL).

Danner, Mark. The Massacre at El Mozote. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.

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

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

In addition, a course packet will be available on Blackboard or for purchase at Paradigm (307 W. 24th St., tel: 472-7986). Readings marked with an asterisk are in the course packet.

I. U.S. LATIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS: AN OVERVIEW

Week 1 (Aug. 29) Introduction to U.S.-Latin American Relations
Weeks, Ch. 1, (pp. 1-13).

Week 2 (Sept. 5) Theories of International Relations
Cleveland Fraser, "International Relations." In Richard S. Hillman, ed. Understanding Contemporary Latin America Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1997: 151-176.*
Andre Gunder Frank. "The Development of Underdevelopment." In Robert Rhodes, ed., Imperialism and Underdevelopment, pp. 4-16.*
Theotonio Dos Santos. "The Structure of Dependence." in Development and Underdevelopment: The Political Economy of Inequality. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1993. pp. 193-202.*
Hans Morgenthau, Politics among Nations New York: Knopf, 1973, pp. 3-14.*
Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye. Power and Interdependence Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Co., pp. 23-37.*
Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories." Foreign Policy. Nov./Dec. 2004: 53-62.*

Week 2 (Sept. 10 and 12) Key Actors in U.S. Foreign Policy toward Latin America
Kryzanek, Chs. 5-7 (pp. 123-204)*

Week 4 (Sept. 17 and 19) The History of U.S.-Latin American Relations, pre-1945
Weeks, Chs. 2-4 (pp. 17-92)

Sept. 24. 1st examination.

II. U.S. LATIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE COLD WAR, 1945-1990

Week 5-6 (Sept. 26, Oct. 1 and 3) U.S.-Latin American Relations during the Cold War.
Weeks, Chs. 5-7 (pp. 93 - 165)

Week 7-8 (Oct. 8, 10, and 15) U.S. Intervention in Cuba
Kennedy, Thirteen Days (pp. 7-145).
Thomas Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, "Cuba: Late Colony, First Socialist State" in Modern Latin America, (Sixth Edition): Oxford University Press, 2005 (pp. 263-293 & 306-309).*

Week 8 (Oct. 17) U.S. Intervention in Chile
U.S. Senate, Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations. "Covert Action in Chile, 1963-1973." U.S. Government Printing Office, Dec. 18. 1975, (pp. 1-40)*
"Fleeing the Chilean Coup: The Debate over U.S. Complicity." Foreign Affairs (Jan./Feb. 2004): 160-65.*

Weeks 9 and 10 (Oct. 22, 24, and 29) The Central American battleground
John Coatsworth. Central America and the United States. Twayne, 1994, (pp. 122-206).*
Danner, Massacre at El Mozote (pp. 3-161).

Oct. 31. 2nd examination.

III. CURRENT ISSUES IN U.S-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

Week 11 (Nov. 5 and 7) A New Era? Democracy Promotion

Weeks, Ch. 10 (pp. 223-247)

Azpuru, Dinorah and Carolyn M. Shaw. "The United States and the Promotion of Democracy in Latin America: Then, Now and Tomorrow." Orbis Spring 2010 (pp. 252-267).

Valenzuela, Arturo. The Collective Defense of Democracy: Lessons from the Paraguayan Crisis of 1996. Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1999. (pp. 1-26)*

Clement, Christopher. "Confronting Hugo Chávez: "Democracy Promotion" in Latin America." *Latin American Perspectives* 32, 3, May 2005 (pp. 60-78).

Week 12 (Nov. 12 and 14) U.S. Economic Relations with Latin America

Weeks, Ch. 8 (pp. 169 - 197)

Hornbeck, J.F. "NAFTA at Ten: Lessons from Recent Studies." Congressional Research Service Report for Congress. Washington, CRS, 2004, pp. 1-6.*

Teslik, Lee Hudson. "NAFTA's Economic Impact." Council on Foreign Relations, 2009. URL: http://www.cfr.org/economics/naftas-economic-impact/p15790

Villarreal, M. Angeles. "NAFTA and the Mexican Economy." Congressional Research Service Report for Congress. Washington, CRS, 2010, pp. 1-20.

Week 13 (Nov. 19 and 21) Immigration

Weeks, Ch. 9 (pp. 198-222)

Citrin, Jack et al. "Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity?" *Perspectives on Politics* (March 2007): 31-48.*

Garcia, F. Chris, and Gabriel R. Sanchez. Hispanics and the U.S. Political System Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. Ch. 12, 267-304.*

Week 13 (Nov. 26 and 28) U.S. Policy on Narcotics

Weeks, Ch. 11 (pp. 248 - 272).

Veillette, Connie. "Plan Colombia: A Progress Report." Congressional Research Service Report for Congress. Washington, CRS, 2006, pp. 1-15.*

Haugaard, Lisa, Adam Isacson, and Jennifer Johnson. "A Cautionary Tale: Plan Colombia's Lessons for U.S. Policy Toward Mexico and Beyond." Washington: Latin America Working Group Education Fund, Nov. 2011, pp. 1-28.

Nov. 28. Research paper due

Week 15 (Dec. 3) Wrap-up – The Future of U.S.-Latin American Relations

No assigned reading

Dec. 5. 3rd examination