

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Department of International Relations

Department of Political Science

Fall 2007

IR/PO 568: United States-Latin American Relations

MW 4-5:20

Room: GCB 207

Final Edition

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Course Rationale, Goals, and Organization

U.S. policy toward Latin America over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries has been marked by indifference, intervention, cooperation, and conflict. Sometimes the United States has pursued policies that take little account of the needs and concerns of its neighbors to the south, while at other times there has been a genuine convergence of interests.

The larger patterns of U.S. relations with the region break down into historical periods that are distinguished by various combinations of changes and events in domestic, regional, and/or international arenas. In addition to such historical patterns, there are also specific issues that affect the relationship, including democracy, development, immigration, and drugs. During the semester we will discuss both these historical dynamics and the major contemporary issues in Inter-American relations. Using a combination of a constraints framework and an asymmetry model to guide our exploration, we will try to explain both the continuities and the shifts in policy over time, including why the United States often finds it very difficult to accomplish stated policy objectives in spite of its disproportionate power.

The specific goals of this course are threefold: 1) to increase our knowledge of the patterns and practices of U.S. policy toward Latin America; 2) to more fully understand how and why U.S. policy has changed over time, and 3) to learn more about some of the most important issues in

contemporary Inter-American affairs, U.S. responses to them, and key controversies arising from those responses.

To accomplish these objectives, we first explore contemporary U.S. relations with the region and evaluate the degree to which the most important initiatives have responded to U.S. and Latin American government objectives. Then we formulate together what we consider to be the most important questions concerning major U.S. policy issues and priorities. These will serve to guide our discussion as the course proceeds. Next we cover the broader historical, institutional, and cultural contexts that channel and constrain U.S. foreign policy, followed by an historical overview of the major developments in Inter-American relations from the 1820s to the present. We are particularly interested in the broad sweep of policy over time, the most important specific initiatives, the degree to which U.S. policy objectives were or were not achieved, and the explanations for significant policy shifts at particular historical moments. Then we examine more closely the most important contemporary issues in United States-Latin American relations. Here we bring to bear those key questions we developed early in the course to stimulate discussion and as an aid in preparing a research paper on some aspect of one of the issues. We conclude the course with a discussion of U.S. policy successes, failures, and challenges in Latin America and how we might best explain them.

By the time you complete the course, you should have a solid grounding in both how and why U.S. relations with Latin America have developed in the ways that they have, the nature of the key concerns in those relations, and a sense of how policy toward the region is likely to evolve in the future.

Grading

Undergraduates:

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation – **10%**
- 2) Map Quiz – **M Sep 17** – **5%**
- 3) Mid-Term Examination – **M Oct 29** – **20%**
- 4) Key Issue Paper – Due on the last day that the issue you have selected is being considered. Guidelines are as follows: About 15 pages of text not including footnotes or internal citations (no endnotes, please) bibliography (required), and tables (not required, but desirable to ensure that your analysis is data-based). As for sources, along with published

books and articles, judicious selection from the Internet is acceptable (e.g., published articles and data sources available on-line, but not Wikipedia or blogs). For your paper to be complete, you need to provide proper citations using one of the standard social science reference guides. A revise and resubmit option is available only if your first submission is complete and on time.) – **35%**

5) Final Examination – **30%** (TU Dec 18, 12:30-2:30)

Graduate Students:

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation (including a graduate student seminar to be held weekly at a mutually convenient time) – **20%**
- 2) First Research Paper (About 20 pages, plus citations, bibliography, and tables as described above, including the revise and resubmit option) – **40%** The paper is to be a data-based analysis of how one particular constraint on U.S. policy plays out in a specific historical case of relations with Latin America. **Due W Oct 24.**
- 3) Second Research Paper (The same stipulations as the first research paper apply.) – **40%** This paper is to be a data-based analysis of some key aspect of a major post-Cold War issue in U.S.-L.A. relations that analyzes stated U.S. policy objectives, actual outcomes, and discrepancies between the two. **Due W Nov 28.**

All Students: Extra Credit for Attending L.A. Studies Events

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Deans' Office has requested that you be informed of the following:

1. The last day you may drop the course without a W grade is T Oct 9.
2. The last day you may drop the course with a W grade is F Nov 9.
3. You are responsible for knowing the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Copies are available in CAS 105.
4. Suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Deans' Office.

Required Readings (The three books are available at the Boston University Barnes & Noble Bookstore; look under both IR 568 and PO 568)

Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations*, 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000)

David Scott Palmer. *U.S. Relations with Latin America during the Clinton Years: Opportunities Lost or Opportunities Squandered?* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006)

Michael La Rosa and Frank O. Mora, eds. *Neighborly Adversaries: Readings in U.S. Latin American Relations*, 2nd edition (Lanham MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006)

Latin American Weekly Report, for current developments in the region. You will receive a 13-week on-line subscription at the special student rate of \$2 per week, less than one-fourth the normal price, by signing up in class during the first week of the semester. We will discuss relevant current events regularly in class.

In addition, there are a number of articles listed (noted with a *) in the Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments section below which you will find on the 568 web site (courseinfo.bu.edu/courses/07fallcasir568_a1).

You should plan to read the assignments before the class for which they are listed, as you may be called on to comment on them.

Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments

- W Sep 5 Introduction
 Course overview, details, expectations, questions
- M Sep 10 Contemporary U.S. Policy and Issues: U.S.-L.A. Relations during the George W. Bush Administration (2001-)
 * Arturo Valenzuela, "Beyond Benign Neglect: Washington and Latin America," *Current History* 104:679 (February 2005), 58-63.
 * Peter Hakim, "Is Washington Losing Latin America?" *Foreign Affairs* 85:1 (January/February 2006), 39-53.
 La Rosa & Mora 235-238, 263-286 (Castañeda, Shifter)
- W Sep 12 Class Discussion of Bush Administration Policy: Successes? Failures? Challenges?
- M Sep 17 Key Questions Related to Major Issues in U.S. Relations with Latin America: A Class Discussion
 Map Quiz

- W Sep 19 A Framework and a Model for Understanding U.S. Policy among Multiple Alternatives: Constraints and Asymmetry
 Palmer 5-6
 *Eugene R. Wittkopf, “The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: An Introduction,” in Eugene R. Wittkopf, ed., *The Domestic Sources of American Foreign Policy: Insights and Evidence*, 2nd edition (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1994), 1-10
 Smith 1-8
 La Rosa & Mora 1-50 (La Rosa and Mora, Strong, Rodó, Pike)
- M Sep 24 Historical Context: “The Monroe Doctrine and Mutual Indifference” (1823-1895)
 Smith 11-50
 La Rosa & Mora 51-64 (Perkins), 67-74 (Root)
- W Sep 26 Historical Context: “The New Imperialism and the Imperialism of Liberty” (1895-1933)
 Smith 50-62
 La Rosa & Mora 65-66 (Platt Amendment), 93-100 (Bemis, Wilson)
- M Oct 1 Historical Context: “The Good Neighbor Policy” (1933-1954)
 Smith 63-86
 La Rosa & Mora 75-80 (Nerval), 101-108 (Wood)
 Video: “The Yankee Years”
- W Oct 3 Historical Context: “National & Regional Security” (1954-1973)
 Palmer 9-13
 Smith 117-178
 La Rosa & Mora 109-174 (Trask, Kennan, Blasier, Schlesinger and Kinzer, Luxenberg), 175-192 (Levinson & de Onís)
- M Oct 8 Columbus Day Holiday (M class on TU)

- TU Oct 9 Historical Context: “Human Rights and Human Needs” (1973-1979)
 Smith 205-206
 * Lars Schoultz, “Conclusion,” *Human Rights and U.S. Policy toward Latin America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981), 344-379
- W Oct 10 Historical Context: “National and International Security” (1980-1989)
 Smith 178-189, 271-275
 La Rosa & Mora 193-204 (Pastor)
- M Oct 15 Historical Context: “Pragmatism and Partnership” (1980-1994)
 Palmer 13-31, 44-47, 54-61
 Smith 219-266, 275-289, 293-300
- W Oct 17 Historical Context: “Lost and Squandered Opportunities” (1994-2001)
 Palmer 32-43, 47-54, 61-73, 74-95
 Smith 266-271, 282-283, 289-293, 308-317
- M Oct 22 Class Discussion: The major historical patterns of U.S. policy toward Latin America and what they tell us about the nature of policy formulation, implementation, and outcomes
- W Oct 24 Class Discussion: Consideration of the most important questions that relate to issues in Inter-American relations and ways that they might best be addressed
1st Graduate Student Paper Due
- M Oct 29 **Mid-Term Exam for Undergraduates**
- W Oct 31 Student meeting in issue groups to discuss paper proposals, share references, and insure distinctive research foci
- M Nov 5 Issues: Democracy
 Smith, 293-300
 * Fareed Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs* 76:6 (November/December 1997), 22-43

* Jorge Castañeda & Patricio Navia, "The Year of the Ballot," *Current History* 106:697 (February 2007), 51-57
Smith 293-300

* *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 40:1
(January/February 2007), "In the Name of Democracy:
U.S. Intervention in the Americas Today," 18-29 (Rosen,
Grinden & Weld, Grandin, Domínguez)

Student Paper Presentations

W Nov 7 Issues: Democracy

Lecture and discussion

Democracy Issue Papers Due

M Nov 12 Veterans' Day Holiday

W Nov 14 Issues: Economic Growth and Development (Includes Aid,
Debt, Trade, Investment, and Environmentally Sustainable
Development)

Smith 239-242, 255-266, 284-293

La Rosa & Mora 205-218 (Roett), 287-302 (Ingwersen &
Ávila)

* M.A. Thomas, "Getting Debt Relief Right," *Foreign
Affairs* 80:5 (September/October 2001), 36-45

* Michael M. Weinstein and Steve Charnovitz, "The
Greening of the WTO," *Foreign Affairs* 80:6
(November/December 2001), 147-156

**Paper Presentations (Aid, Debt, and Environmentally
Sustainable Development)**

M Nov 19 Issues: Economic Growth and Development

* Robert A. Pastor, "North America's Second Decade,"
Foreign Affairs 83:1 (January/February 2004), 124-135

* Jeffrey D. Sachs, "The Development Challenge,"
Foreign Affairs 84:2 (March/April 2005), 78-90

La Rosa & Mora, 239-248 (Angrisani), 303-318 (Harris)

Paper Presentations (Trade and Investment)

W Nov 21- SU Nov 25 Thanksgiving Holiday

- M Nov 26 Issues: Economic Growth and Development
Lecture and discussion
Economic Growth and Development Papers Due
- W Nov 28 Issues: Drugs
Smith 284-293
La Rosa & Mora 219-234 (Bagley & Tokatlian)
* Michael Shifter, "Latin America's Drug Problem,"
Current History 106: 697 (February 2007), 58-63
* "Is Plan Colombia Effectively Combating the Drug
Industry in Colombia?," Analisa DeGrave, et al., eds.
Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Latin American Issues
(Dubuque: McGraw-Hill, 2007), 51-69
Paper Presentations on Drugs
2nd Graduate Student Paper Due
- M Dec 3 Issues: Drugs
Lecture and discussion
Drug Papers Due
- W Dec 5 Issues: Immigration
Smith 300-308
* Tamar Jacoby, "Immigration Nation," *Foreign Affairs*
85:6 (November/December 2006), 50-65
* Andrés Rozental, "The Other Side of Immigration,"
Current History 106:697 (February 2007), 89-90
* Peter Skerry, "How Not to Build a Fence," *Foreign*
Policy (September/October 2006), 64-67
La Rosa & Mora, 249-262 (La Rosa & Ingwersen)
Paper Presentations on Immigration
- M Dec 10 Issues: Immigration
Lecture and discussion
Immigration Papers Due
- W Dec 12 Conclusions: Successes, Failures, and Challenges
- TU Dec 18, 12:30-2:30 **Final Examination**