

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SYLLABUS
IR/PO 787
THE LATIN AMERICAN POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES
FALL 2003
WEDNESDAYS 9-12
IRC 220 152 BSR**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-5 and by appointment

The basis objectives in this graduate seminar on United States-Latin American relations are to increase our knowledge of the most important initiatives the U. S. government has pursued toward the region over the years and our understanding of the forces and factors that explain these policies. To accomplish these objectives, we will review together the major givens and constraints on U.S. foreign policy toward the region, the historical sweep of policy and major changes over time, key turning points and the explanations for them, and contemporary policy dynamics in key issue areas.

The emphasis throughout is on involvement and participation – in critiquing presentations and analyses, discussing readings and key questions they raise, and presenting data-based papers on selected topics, as follows:

1. Analysis of a specific constraint on U.S. foreign policy and how it has affected a specific policy initiative toward Latin America.
2. Discussion of a key historical turning point in U.S. policy toward the region, why it occurred, and its consequences.
3. Analysis of a specific recent U.S. policy toward Latin America that assesses the degree to which U.S. objectives were or were not accomplished, and why.

Required Readings

Michael Kryzaneck, *United States-Latin American Relations*, Third Edition (Westport CT: Praeger, 1996).

Robert H. Holden and Eric Zolov, *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History* (New York: Oxford, 2000).

Lawrence E. Harrison, *The Pan-American Dream: Do Latin America's Cultural Values Discourage True Partnership with the United States and Canada?* (Boulder: Westview, 1997).

Monica Herz and João Pontes Nogueira, *Ecuador vs. Peru: Peacekeeping Amid Rivalry* (Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner, 2002).

Russell Crandall, *Driven by Drugs: U.S. Policy Toward Colombia* (Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner, 2002).

Jorge Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, *The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict* (New York: Routledge, 2001).

The New York Times (Special priced Boston University student subscription available).

Grading

Seminar attendance and participation in discussions and presentations is an important part of the course, and will count for 25% of the final grade. The quality of the papers submitted will provide the basis for the balance of the final grade, with each one counting 25%. The papers should be about 15 pages in length, plus footnotes, bibliography, and tables/appendices. Each is due at the beginning of class on the date indicated. There will be an opportunity to revise and resubmit each paper as long as it is done within one week of receiving back the original submission.

Seminar Topics, Dates, and Readings

- W Sep 3: Introduction
- W Sep 10: Givens and Constraints Affecting U.S. Foreign Policy
Kryzanek (K), 239-256; Harrison (H), 88-104.
Office hour appointments to discuss Paper 1 topic.
- W Sep 17: Contemporary U.S.-L.A. Relations: Issues and Concerns
K, 1-24; H, 1-41, 69-87; Inter-American Dialogue, "The Troubled Americas," *2003 Policy Report* (hand-out).
- W Sep 24: Historical Overview of U.S.-L.A. Relations, Part 1
K, 25-59; Holden and Zolov (H&Z), 5-140.
PAPER 1 DUE
- W Oct 1: Historical Overview of U.S.-L.A. Relations, Part 2
K, 59-122, 207-238; H&Z, 141-350.
- W Oct 8: Turning Points in U.S.-L.A. Relations: When and Why?
Review H&Z.
Office hour appointments to discuss Paper 2 topic.
- W Oct 15: Making Policy: The Challenges and Conundrums
K, 123-206.
- W Oct 22: Recent Cases of U.S. Policy: Drugs and Plan Colombia
H, 218-230; Crandall, all.
PAPER 2 DUE
- W Oct 29: Recent Cases of U.S. Policy: Peacemaking and Peacekeeping (Peru-Ecuador, 1995-1998)
Palmer – two articles, one published in the *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* (Fall 1997), the other in *Diplomacy and Statecraft* (June 2001); Herz and Nogueira, all.

- W Nov 5: Recent Cases of U.S. Policy: “Fast Track” and Economic Liberalization (i.e., Trade and Investment)
H, 202-217; additional readings and clippings.
Office hour appointments to discuss Paper 3 topic.
- W Nov 12: Recent Cases of U.S. Policy: “Intermestic” Relations Between the United States and Mexico
H, 173-201; Domínguez & Fernández de Castro, all.
- W Nov 19: Recent Cases of U.S. Policy: Immigration
H, 231-251; additional readings and clippings.
- W Dec 3: Paper 3 Presentations and Discussion
PAPER 3 DUE
- W Dec 10: Conclusions: Current U.S. Policy Challenges and Options
- W Dec 10, 7 PM: Dinner at the Casa Palmer