

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Department of International Relations
Department of Political Science
Fall 2014 IR568/PO565: United States-Latin American Relations
Monday 1-4pm
Location: IRB 102

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-12, Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment
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Course Rationale, Goals, and Organization

The United States' relationship with Latin America has been and continues to be one of the most important and controversial relationships of the modern era. In the two centuries since the tide of independence swept through most of the Americas, the citizens of the various Latin American nations and the United States have cooperated, competed, debated, and struggled. As the United States has grown in strength and influence, its neighbors to the south have offered various responses.

This course explores both sides of the U.S.-Latin American relationship, tracing its development over time and analyzing its current challenges. Throughout the course, students will integrate U.S. and Latin American perspectives, drawing on a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. The first half of the semester is devoted to understanding the historical context of this relationship, and culminates in a mid-term exam. This part of the course explores a number of overarching questions: What interests and objectives have shaped U.S. policies toward Latin America over time? What interests and objectives have shaped Latin American policies toward the United States? How have U.S. actions affected Latin America and vice-versa? How have non-governmental actors in the United States and Latin America influenced international relations in the Americas?

We will spend the second half of the semester delving deeply into specific issues in U.S.-Latin American relations. Each student will choose an issue to research (democracy, economic development, drug trafficking, the environment, or migration) and produce a paper and presentation about the history and current challenges of their issue. These papers and presentations should address such questions as: Why is that issue important? What are its major components? Who shapes that issue and how? What are the main actors' (U.S. and Latin American) objectives and policies? Have those policies succeeded, and why or why not? At the end of the semester, students will meet in groups to compose a joint U.S. policy recommendation paper on these same issues.

By the end of the semester, students will have a broad and substantial understanding of the history and current state of U.S. relations with Latin America. They will be able to appreciate the multiple perspectives and issues that make this a crucial relationship for all citizens of the Americas.

Grading:

- 1) Participation and Presentation: **20%**
- 2) Mid-Term Exam: **25% (T 14 Oct):** Short-essay style.
- 3) Key Issue Research Paper: **40% (15 pages of text for undergraduate students, 25 pages for graduate students,** not including cover page and bibliography). You will give a short presentation on your findings when we discuss your issue in class; the paper itself is due that same day (**See below for exact dates.**)
- 4) Issue Group Policy Recommendations Paper: **15%** During the final classes of the semester, members of each issue group will meet to discuss together what each of you has found to be the most significant problems and concerns with current U.S. policy in your issue area. The goal of each issue group is to produce in a single short paper (**5 pages**) one policy recommendation for the current administration, which you will present to the class. These short policy papers will be submitted the last week of class (**M 8 Dec**).

All assignments should be double-spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font with a one-inch margin on all sides. Use Chicago Style footnote citations for primary and secondary sources (for guidelines on proper citation format, see guide posted on Blackboard under “Content” and http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Turn in your assignments on time—there will be a penalty of 10% for each day that an assignment is late. You will only be allowed to turn in an assignment late without penalty if you have a documented emergency.

Expectations:

1. Participation. I expect you to do the readings, bring the readings to class, and participate in discussions. Your presentations will also contribute to your participation grade.
2. Attention. I expect you to close your laptops and put them away during lectures and presentations. Take notes by hand.
3. Communication.
 - a. If you have a question, don't hesitate to raise your hand and ask or contact me privately. If you have a problem or an emergency arises, let me know and I will be very willing to work with you.
 - b. If you need an accommodation for any type of physical or learning disability, medical needs, or any other reason, you should meet with the student disability services office and then meet with me privately to discuss the modifications necessary to ensure your full participation in the course.
 - c. When emailing me, address your emails to “Professor Keller” or “Dr. Keller.”
4. Proper Academic Conduct. It is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the College of Arts and Science's Academic Conduct Code. I will refer cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Dean's Office.

Required Readings (Available at the B.U. Barnes & Noble Bookstore)

Peter H. Smith, *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States, and the World*, 4th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012) ISBN: 9780199856954

Robert H. Holden and Eric Zolov, eds., *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*, 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0-19-538568-7

Latin American News Digest: (latinamericanewsdigest.com) Covers current developments in Latin American countries and is available in an online 6-month subscription for \$18. We will discuss current events at the beginning of every class.

In addition, there are a number of assigned articles (noted with a *) on the Blackboard website under Content. Our Blackboard site will also contain important information about assignments and exams under Announcements; other course-related material, such as the syllabus, is under Information.

Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments

- M 8 Sept Introduction and Historical Context
Course overview, details, expectations
- M 15 Sept Historical Context
Smith, 1-113 in 4th edition (or 1-110 in 3rd edition)
Holden and Zolov, 9-13 (Adams), 30-32 (Sarmiento), 71-73 (McKinley),
75-77 (Carnegie), 104-106 (Wilson), 133-134 (Roosevelt), 147-149
(Beals)
- M 22 Sept Historical Context
Smith, 115-202 (or 111-209 in 3rd edition)
Holden and Zolov, 192-194 (Dreir), 194-196 (Cardoza y Aragón), 233-
236 (Castro), 248-250 (Fulbright), 256-259 (Frei), 265-267 (Rockefeller),
277-280 (Church), 307-309 (CIA), 330-332 (Galeano)
- M 29 Sept Historical Context
Smith, 203-245 (or 211-271)
Holden and Zolov, 342-345 (NAFTA), 348-351 (California), 351-354
(SoA), 378-382 (Plan Colombia)
**3pm Social Movement Research Workshop with Alex Khasnabish,
154 Bay State Road 2nd Floor**
- M 6 Oct Historical Context
Choose Research topics
Smith, 246-290 and 357-375 (or 273-368)

Holden and Zolov, 345-347 (EZLN), 363-366 (ORIT), 367-372 (Varela), 372-377 (CHC Guatemala), 382-386 (OAS), 390-392 (Mexico et al), 393-397 (Morales)

M 13 Oct NO CLASS, MEET TUESDAY INSTEAD

TUES 14 OCT MIDTERM EXAM

Expectations for Key Issue Research Papers and Presentations

M 20 Oct Introduction to Contemporary Issues in U.S.-L.A. Relations: The Obama Administration (2009-)

* Partnership for the Americas Commission, *Rethinking U.S.-Latin American Relations: A Hemispheric Partnership for a Troubled World* (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, November 2008)

*Michael Shifter and Daniel Joyce, "No Longer Washington's Backyard," *Current History*, 108:715 (February 2009), 51-57

*Inter-American Dialogue, *A Second Chance: U.S. Policy in the Americas* (Washington, D.C., March 2009)

* Abraham F. Lowenthal, "Obama and the Americas: Promise, Disappointment, Opportunity," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2010)

M 27 Oct Issues Presentation and Discussion: Democracy

* Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* 76:6 (November/December 1997), 22-43

* *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, Ginden & Weld, Grandin, Domínguez)

* Jorge Lanzaro, "Uruguay's Social Democratic Experiment," *Current History* 113:760 (February 2014), 76-81

Paper Presentations on Democracy

Democracy Research Papers Due

M 3 Nov Issues Presentation and Discussion: The Environment

* Jeff Tollefson, "A Light in the Forest: Brazil's Fight to Save the Amazon and Climate-Change Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* 92:2 (Mar/April 2013), 141-151

* Adam Chimienti and Sebastian Matthes, "Ecuador: Extractivism for the Twenty-First Century?" *NACLA Report on the Americas* 46:4 (Winter 2013), 59-61

* Gerardo Renique, "Peru: Humala Submits to the United States and the Mining Industry," *NACLA Report on the Americas* 46:3 (Fall 2013), 12-17

Paper Presentations on the Environment

Environment Research Papers Due

- M 10 Nov Issues Presentation and Discussion: Economic Development (Aid, Trade, and Investment)
 * Eric Farnsworth, "A Way Forward for Hemispheric Trade," *Current History* 108:715 (February 2009), 90-92
 * Christopher Sabatini, "Rethinking Latin America: Foreign Policy is More Than Development," *Foreign Affairs* 91:2 (Mar/Apr 2012), 8-13
 * Nora Lustig, "Latin America's Inequality Success Story," *Current History* 112: 751 (February 2013), 64-69
 * Jorge G. Castañeda, "NAFTA's Mixed Record: The View From Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 93:1 (January/February 2014) 134-141
Paper Presentations on Economic Development
Economic Development Research Papers Due
- M 17 Nov Issues Presentation and Discussion: Drug Trafficking
 * Michael Shifter, "Latin America's Drug Problem," *Current History* 106: 697 (February 2007), 58-63
 * Michael Shifter, "Central America's Security Predicament," *Current History* 110:733 (February 2011), 49-55
 * Mark Kleiman, "Surgical Strikes in the Drug Wars: Smarter Policies for Both Sides of the Border," *Foreign Affairs* 90:5 (Sept/Oct 2011), 89-101
Paper Presentations on Drug Trafficking
Drug Trafficking Research Papers Due
- M 24 Nov Issues Presentation and Discussion: Migration
 * 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), 64-7
 * Ray Suarez, "Latin Lessons: Who Are Hispanic Americans, and How Will They Vote?" *Foreign Affairs* 91:5 (Sept/Oct 2012), 134-141
 * Jagdish Bhagwati and Francisco Rivera-Batiz, "A Kinder, Gentler Immigration Policy," *Foreign Affairs* 92:6 (Nov/Dec 2013), 9-15
Paper Presentations on Immigration
Immigration Research Papers Due
- M 1 Dec Class Discussion on U.S.-Latin American Relations and U.S. Policy Issue Group Meetings and Group Paper Preparation
 Smith, 333-356
 * Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* (New York: Holt, 2006), 11-51
- M 8 Dec U.S. Policy Issue Group Joint Paper Presentations
Democracy, Environment, Development, Drugs, and Migration Group Papers Due