

PSCI 474/574
Spring Semester 2003

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appointment)

LATIN AMERICA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

The primary emphasis of this course is not on domestic politics in Latin America, but rather on the pattern of relations between Latin America (or specific Latin American countries) and the outside world. The two topics are not, of course, totally unrelated since what occurs domestically can have a significant influence on a country's external relations. Nevertheless, our key concern here will be international relations rather than the dynamics of domestic Latin American politics (a topic which is covered in PSCI 483/583).

Often Latin America's dealing with the outside world (especially the United States) have taken the form of a complex love/hate relationship. On the one hand, many Latins see themselves as part of the Western world and therefore feel that their countries must maintain close and collaborative relations with North America and Western Europe. For these elements in Latin society, the Western centers of economic and political power represent models of development toward which they are attracted. On the other hand, however, the Latin experience has been a complex, tumultuous, and often tragic story of struggle against outside forces that have sought to dominate and exploit the region. This legacy has produced a strong nationalistic tradition that often leads Latins to be quite suspicious in their dealings with foreigners (especially North Americans since the vast economic and military power of the United States has often caused it to be perceived as the threatening Colossus of the North).

Our basic goal in this course is to explore the complexities of this international mosaic. Within the context of this endeavor, primary emphasis will be placed on relations with the United States and within this U.S./Latin American relations axis, the Latin region receiving the most attention will be the Caribbean Basin (Mexico, Central America, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, and the island Caribbean) since this is the area that has historically has been at the top of Washington's Latin

American agenda. In the process, however, other important facets of Latin America's role in world affairs will be explored, particularly some of the main challenges that Latin American countries will have to confront on the international stage as they move into the 21st century.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Joseph S. Tulchin and Raslph H. Espach (eds.), **Latin America In The New International System**, paperback (Lynn Rienner Publishers)

Peter H. Smith, **Talons Of The Eagle: The Dynamics Of U.S./Latin American Relations**, paperback (Oxford University Press)

EXAMS/GRADES:

Undergraduates--

Each person will do three take-home essays over the course of the semester. Your grades on these three essays will be averaged and that average grade will account for 70 percent of your overall course grade.

Each person will write a term paper, the topic to be selected in consultation with the instructor. The term paper will serve as the substitute for a final exam. Details regarding the papers will be provided later. Your grade on the paper will account for 30 percent of your overall course grade.

Graduate Students--

Each person will do three take-home essays over the course of the semester (same questions as for the undergraduates). Your grades on these essays will be averaged and that average grade will account for 50 percent of your overall course grade.

Each person will submit a research proposal to the instructor. These proposals will lay the foundation for the major research paper requirement that is listed in the next section. Details regarding the format and content of the research proposals will be provided later, although essentially the proposals will follow the general outlines of a MA Thesis proposal. The proposal will provide a mechanism for consulting with the instructor to assure that your research paper project is both ambitious and realistic. These proposals will account for 10 percent of your overall course grade,

Based on the research proposal requirement noted above, each person will submit a major research paper. Your grade on the research paper will account for 40 percent of your overall course grade.

The grading in this course will operate on a 100-point scale, with the grade breakdown being as follows:

A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D+	65-69
D	60-64
F	Less Than 60

In the case of a borderline average when all of your grades for the course have been computed, various non-graded considerations may be utilized to determine whether you will receive a higher or a lower grade for the course. The three primary considerations here are: (1) attendance--if you miss more than **FOUR (4)** of the scheduled classes without a valid (i.e., approved by the instructor) excuse, it is extremely unlikely that a borderline grade will be raised to the next level [NOTE: There has almost inevitably been a high correlation in my courses between class attendance and student performance; if you miss a lot of classes, it is almost certain that you will not perform very well on the essay exams which constitute the largest component of your overall course grade]; (2) participation in class discussions--quality participation will increase the likelihood that a borderline grade will be raised to the next level; and (3) a pattern of significant improvement or decline in your grades over the course of the semester.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

KEY: TE = Tulchin & Espach, **Latin America In ...**
PS = Peter Smith, **Talons Of The Eagle ...**

Some additional handout readings may be provided to expand the available information with regard to some topics on the syllabus.

- I. An Introduction To Latin America In World Affairs
 - A. A Brief Geopolitical Survey of Latin America

B. Latin America And The Evolving International System:
Some Basic Themes And Issues

Read: PS, Introduction (pp. 1-8)
TE, Chapter 1

II. Latin America's Foreign Relations: A Global Context

A. Latin America Confronts The Post-Cold War World: The
Difficulty Of Adjusting To A New International Order

Read: TE, Chapters 2 and 8

B. The Foreign Relations Of Some "Regional Influentials"

1. Brazil

Read: TE, chapter 4

2. Mexico

Read: TE, chapter 6

3. Cuba

Read: TE, chapter 7

III. The Key Element In The Equation: Latin American/U.S.
Relations

A. An Overview Of An Often Tumultuous Relationship

1. Initial Encounters: The Evolution of the Monroe
Doctrine and Sphere of Influence Politics

Read: PS, chapters 1-4

Doctrine
America"

Petras et. al., "The Monroe
And U.S. Hegemony In Latin
(handout)

2. Cold War Warring: Controversies Over
Interventionism

Read: PS, chapters 5-8

Erismán, "The Pogo Syndrome"
(handout)

3. A Contemporary Perspective: US/Latin American

Relations In A Post-Cold War World

Read: PS, Chapter 9 and Conclusion (pp. 353-370)

IV. Current Issues in US/Latin American Relations

- A. Promoting U.S.-Style Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America

Read: TE, chapter 5
PS, pp. 308-315

- B. Promoting U.S.-Style Capitalism: U.S./Latin American Economic Relations

Read: PS, chapter 10

- C. Cuba: The Last Cold War Rampart

Read: Erisman, "US/CUban Relations: Moving Beyond The Cold War To The New International Order (handout)

- D. Drug Wars: Confronting A New Adversary

Read: PS, pp. 284-300