

POLS 3325, Peru: The Politics of Surprise

FALL 2020 Online (asynchronous) (Section 18675)

Gregory D. Schmidt

gdschmidt@utep.edu or through Course Mail in Blackboard
Appointments by phone also available.

This course focuses on Peru, one of the most interesting countries in Latin America and, indeed, the world. Whereas the other undergraduate courses that I teach emphasize comparisons and the building of broad explanations in the discipline of Political Science, the single country focus of this course facilitates consideration of historical contingencies and explanations from other disciplines, as well as those from Political Science. **Learning objectives:** By the end of the course, students should acquire a multidisciplinary understanding of Andean civilization, appreciate how geography facilitated the Spanish conquest, and grasp key themes in Peruvian history, culture, and politics. Thus, the in-depth consideration of a single country—supplemented by some key comparisons to other countries, such as Mexico—should add to the diversity of your education.

Course Organization and Policies

Course segments. The course is divided into 14 segments, as detailed in the course outline below in this syllabus and in the Course Schedule at a Glance posted on Blackboard. Each of the first dozen segments lasts one week. The next to last segment, which includes the Thanksgiving break, lasts two weeks. Students will then have almost two weeks to take the last exam in the last course segment.

The materials for each segment will appear in content folders on Blackboard as we reach that part of the course. Open the respective folder to access the material for the segment.

Each successive segment will begin on a Monday and end on a Sunday, except that the very last segment (Exam II) will end on the last day of the final exam period (a Friday).

The various components of the course are color coded in the segment folders. **Power point presentation appear in orange**, questions **for videos and the videos themselves are listed in blue**, and **quizzes and exams are presented in red**. These components are discussed below in this syllabus. Other items and information appear in black on Blackboard.

Power point presentations. Most course segments have one or more power point presentations. These are the core of the course.

Click on the subject to access the power point slides. (These sometimes take a minute or two to load.) Then click on the slide show icon in the lower right corner of the screen. You can also advance the slides on the left side of the screen.

Videos and Video Questions. Most segments include videos, and we will also watch two movies. All of the movies and videos are embedded into Blackboard using Yuja, a video management system recently acquired by UTEP.

Questions that students should answer while watching each video are posted on Blackboard in different files. You should print out the questions and answer them as you watch the video. The knowledge generated by correctly answering these questions will be the basis for questions on each video that will appear on the quizzes and exams.

Quizzes and Exams. Students will take 12 brief quizzes and 2 exams. Each assessment focuses on a discrete part of the course. Each quiz covers only the material from the respective segment (usually a week). Exam I covers roughly the first half of the course, and Exam II only the material from the second half since Exam I. Students will have one week to complete Exams I and almost two weeks to complete Exam II. There is no final exam.

All of the quizzes and Exam I are due on Sundays at 11:59 p.m. Mountain. Exam II must be completed by 11:59 Mountain on Friday, December 11, which is the last day of the final exam period.

The quizzes and exams are based on the material on the power point presentations and videos. There is no required textbook for the course. A draft of the fourth edition of my text, *Peru: The Politics of Surprise*, is posted in case students would like to do further reading. The power point presentations are largely based on this work.

Most of the questions on the quizzes and exams are multiple choice. There are some true/false questions. The questions appear one at a time. You must answer a question in order to move on to the next one. There is no backtracking. You should complete each assessment in one sitting. Do **not** save a quiz or exam in order to resume work later because the timer keeps running, even if you are logged out. If your quiz or exam is disrupted due to technical difficulties, try to log back in as soon as possible.

Each quiz will have 5 questions worth 21 points each, and will last a maximum of 15 minutes. Students can review the questions and their answers after taking the quiz. They may retake a quiz one time, in which case the grade will be the average of the two attempts. Some questions may be repeated on different attempts, but others will be new.

Each exam will have 42 questions worth 2.5 points each, and will last a maximum of 90 minutes. Some questions from quizzes are likely to be repeated on the exams, but others will be new. Exams may be taken only once. Students can review the questions and their answers after the due date.

Please note that five points of extra credit are built into each quiz and exam. Each quiz has 5 questions worth 21 points, so it is possible to score a total of 105 points. Each exam has 42 questions worth 2.5 points, making the maximum possible score also 105.

The deadlines for taking the assessments are **not** flexible. Students may take quizzes only during the respective segments. Students will be able to take the exams only during the designated exam windows. If you begin a quiz or exam before the deadline, but finish it after the deadline 10 points will be deducted from your score. You will receive a 0 for any missed assessment.

I must be notified immediately (gdschmidt@utep.edu) of any medical or personal emergency that prevents a student from taking an assessment by the deadline. Proof is required.

By accessing a quiz or exam, students agree not to give or accept any help in completing the assignment. Students may use printouts of power point slides and video questions, as well as their own notes, but they may not seek or accept help from others or use electronic devices. It is also a violation of academic integrity to disseminate questions or answers from quizzes or exams to other students or to post them online. Violators will face academic sanctions and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law!

All suspected violations of academic integrity at UTEP must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please see the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Course Grade. The quiz average, Exam I, and Exam II will each count for a third of the course grade. All grades will be posted on Blackboard. Students will also be able to see their quiz average and overall average for the course.

Course Average	Final Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
65-79%	C
50-64%	D
Below 50%	F

I cannot accept extra credit projects to compensate for poor performances on assessments because opportunities for extra credit must be available to all students on an equal basis. However, as discussed above, extra credit opportunities are built into each quiz and exam.

Incompletes will not be given for reasons other than a medical or personal emergency and then only after presentation of verifiable documentation. Academic hardship does not qualify as an acceptable reason.

Technology. The content for this course is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system, so you will need to have access to a computer or laptop. Make sure that your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have Internet access and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. If you have technical difficulties, try updating your browser, clearing your cache, or switching to another browser.

The most common technical problem is weak Wi-Fi signals that throw students out of a quiz or exam. If this happens, you should immediately log back into the exam. If the problem persists, you should immediately contact the Helpdesk (915) 747-4357 (HELP)) and the instructor. If you are granted additional attempts due to technical difficulties (proof required), the grade will be based on all questions answered from all attempts. Additional penalties may be imposed for repeated technical difficulties. It is your responsibility to acquire reliable Internet access.

If you encounter technical difficulties not related to a quiz or exam that are beyond your troubleshooting skills, please contact the UTEP Help Desk, whose staff is trained specifically in assisting students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped to assist you!

If you do not have access to a computer, you may do course work and take assessments on the second floor of the UTEP Library. You may also be able to check out a laptop there. Please note the rules for visiting campus below and consult with the library regarding their hours and additional requirements for access. Library hours are limited, due to the COVID-19 emergency. For example, the library closes at 6 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Course Communications. I will send out announcements at least once a week and usually more often. You will receive these by e-mail, and they will also be posted on Blackboard.

UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. Indeed, I am usually pretty prompt! When e-mailing me, please be sure to use your UTEP student account and put the course number (POLS 3325) in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

You can also contact me via course mail on Blackboard, but I check this only about once a day.

Students with Disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

COVID-19 Precautions and Requirements. This class is a 100% asynchronous online course delivered via Blackboard. We will not meet face-to-face, and there is no reason to come to campus for this class unless you need access to a computer for course work. If you do come to campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to your arrival. The website must authorize your visit. You must wear face coverings and practice social distancing while on campus.

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure to the virus, or symptoms. You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at

screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on his or her behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

Course Outline

August 24-30

Vignette: Peru's Accidental President
Instructor's Biography
Geography
Video—*Peru: A Golden Treasure*
People
Quiz 1 (Opens August 24; due August 30)

August 31-September 6

Pre-Inca Civilizations
Video—*Blood and Treasure in Peru*
Video—*Mysteries of Peru: The Lines*
Quiz 2 (Opens August 31; due September 6)

September 7-13

The Inca Empire
Video—*Secrets of Lost Empires: Inca*
Video—*Ghosts of Machu Picchu*
Quiz 3 (Opens September 7; due September 13)

September 14-20

The Conquest
Video—*Guns Germs, and Steel*
Video—*Conquistadores*
Quiz 4 (Opens September 14; due September 20)

September 21-27

Colonial Peru
Video—*The Great Incan Rebellion*
Independence and the Early Republic
Quiz 5 (Opens September 21; due September 27)

September 28-October 4

The Emergence of Modern Peru
Movie—*Fitzcarraldo*
Fact and Fiction in the Movie, *Fitzcarraldo*
Quiz 6 (Opens September 28; due October 4)

October 5-11

Exam I (Opens October 5; due October 11)

October 12-18

Only APRA Will Save Peru?

Video—*Historic Lima*

Quiz 7 (Opens October 12; due October 18)

October 19-25

The Military's Revolution from Above and Tenuous Democracy

Video—*State of Fear* (Chapters 1-8)

Video—*Mario Vargas Llosa: The Story of the Novelist Who Would Be President*

Fujimori's Tsunami

Quiz 8 (Opens October 19; due October 25)

October 26-November 1

The Decade of Fujimori

Video—*The Fall of Fujimori*

Video—*State of Fear* (Chapters 9-10)

Quiz 9 (Opens October 26; due November 1)

November 2-8

Movie—*Ojos Que No Ven*

Video—*State of Fear* (Chapters 11-12)

Quiz 10 (Opens November 2; due November 8)

November 9-15

Peru in the New Millennium

Conflict, Reform, and COVID Under an Accidental President

Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Public Opinion

Video—*The Black Grandma in the Closet*

Quiz 11 (Opens November 9; due November 15)

November 16-29

Thanksgiving Puzzle

Political Institutions and Processes

The State and the Economy

Conflicts Over Natural Resource Extraction

Video—*No Reservations, Peru*

Quiz 12 (Opens November 16; due November 29)

November 30-December 11

Exam II (Opens November 30; due December 11)