

POLS 4339: U.S.-Latin American Relations (18233)

Fall 2018, UGLC 336: MW 10:30-11:50 a.m.

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This class provides an overview of almost two hundred years of interaction between the United States and other sovereign states in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the first half of the class, we will examine the origin of U.S.-Latin American relations and their evolution through the Good Neighbor policy and World War II. After the first exam, we will focus on the Cold War and the contemporary context of globalization, renewed multipolarity, and post 9/11 security.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course students should have a good grasp of the major issues in U.S.-Latin American relations, appreciate the dynamics of cooperation and conflict from the perspectives of different actors, and be able to relate key issues in the hemisphere to alternative theoretical perspectives in international relations. These learning outcomes are most closely related to the global awareness, critical thinking, and social responsibility goals of the UTEP Edge.

Course Requirements and Policies

1. Attendance and Punctuality. Regular attendance is expected. If you do not attend class regularly, you will not do well. Moreover, you risk missing frequent quizzes. Leaving class early counts as an absence. Please use the restroom before class. I reserve the right to count students as “absent” if they are using tablets or laptops for purposes unrelated to the class, if they are using their phones, or if their behavior disrupts the learning environment. **I DO NOT DIRECTLY PENALIZE** students for missing class, though you will miss quizzes and not do well in the class overall.

If you arrive after roll is checked, please notify me at the end of class so that you can receive a tardy. Two tardies are excused. The third and each subsequent tardy count as absences.

Extra Credit for Good Attendance: If you have perfect attendance (i.e. no recorded absences), I will add an extra point to your course average. If you have only one recorded absences, I will add .8 points. I will add .6 points if you have two recorded absences, .4 points if you have three recorded absences, and .2 points if you have four recorded absences.

I do not try to determine “excused” and “unexcused” absences because I give extra credit for outstanding attendance, rather than penalizing poor attendance. We all have to balance different obligations, and I know that students sometimes have legitimate reasons for missing class. You will not be penalized if you occasionally miss class, but to give you extra credit is unfair to the students who do attend. Please do not ask me to give you extra credit for classes that you do not attend, whatever the reason may be.

2. Lectures. I will post the power point slides of my lecture before each class. Students are encouraged to print out the power point slides and bring them to class in order to facilitate note-taking. Students should be able to correctly answer the questions on the quizzes and the exams on the basis of the power point slides and questions on the videos (see below). There is no required textbook for the class, but short readings on contemporary issues may be assigned; these would be posted on Blackboard or handed out in class.

3. Videos. I will show various videos on course-related topics to the extent that time, availability, and scheduling permit. These are not "blow-off" classes; indeed, some quiz and exam questions will be based on audiovisual materials. Questions for most videos will be posted on Blackboard. You should print out the questions and answer them in class as the video is playing. Some videos may simply reinforce material given in class and not have any specific questions.

4. Quizzes. I will give about 10 quizzes, following the schedule below as much as possible. Each quiz will cover the lecture, power point slides, and videos since the last quiz. ***There will be no make-up quizzes.*** However, the lowest two or three quiz grades will be dropped. Save your quizzes because they will be useful in studying for the exams. And the first quiz will likely contain a question based on this syllabus! ***Please bring a blue or black pen to class for the quizzes.***

5. Exams. The first exam will be given on October 17. A second exam will be given on December, the last day of this class. Each exam will contain multiple choice and true/false questions. The first exam will also have a map identification section. Each exam will cover a discrete section of the course, though some of the material has a cumulative character. There is no final exam for this course! If necessary, exam grades will be curved, in accordance with overall student performance. Please do not leave the room during the exam, except in the case of an emergency.

A make-up exam will be given only in the case of a documented medical or personal emergency. In such an event, Professor Schmidt (gdschmidt@utep.edu; 747-7973) or the Political Science Office (747-5227) must be notified before the exam. A make-up exam may be in a format that requires more intensive preparation.

6. Extra Credit. I cannot accept extra credit projects to improve low quiz or exam grades because opportunities for extra credit must be available to all students on an equal basis. However, some extra credit opportunities may appear on quizzes or the exam. You can also earn extra credit through good attendance, as discussed above. In addition, I reserve the right to add up to a point to the course average for outstanding class participation. In assessing class participation, I will emphasize quality, rather than mere quantity. Finally, students can earn one point of extra credit by attending the talk of Ambassador Vicki Huddleston on November 15 (see course outline).

7. Course Grade. The course grade will be determined as follows:

High Exam	50%
Low Exam	25%
Highest 7 Quizzes (average)	25%
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	100% + any extra credit points for attendance, participation, and/or Amb. Huddleston's talk

Course Grades will be distributed as follows:

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

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.

8. Seating and Determination of Attendance. Beginning in the second week of class, all students will sit in permanently assigned seats to facilitate the checking of attendance and so that I can learn your names.

9. Adjustments in Course Schedule. I will do my best to follow the course schedule outlined below, but I reserve the right to make reasonable adjustments with adequate warning if unforeseeable or uncontrollable circumstances (e.g. jury duty, weather, illness, travel, fire drills) so warrant. It is not fair, however, to change the schedule or previously set exam dates simply to accommodate the preferences of some students, since other students inevitably suffer.

10. Classroom Decorum. Please respect the learning process, as well as your instructor and your fellow classmates:

- Please limit the use of laptops and tablets to taking notes for this class.
- Please turn off all phones and other electronic devices.
- Please refrain from chatting, drinking, eating, and disruptive behavior.
- Please do not leave class early, except in an emergency.

11. Academic Integrity. Students are expected to know and comply with UTEP policies on academic integrity in the latest online edition of the *Undergraduate Catalog*, Curriculum and Classroom Policies.

Course Outline

August 27

Introduction to Class

August 29

The Americas: Land and Peoples

Overview and Framework for Analysis

September 5

Quiz 1

The U.S. Enters the European Game

September 10 & 12

Texas and the War with Mexico

Video, *U.S.-Mexican War 1846-1848* (selected parts)

September 17

Quiz 2

From War with Mexico to War with Spain

September 19 & 24

The Spanish American War

Video: *Crucible of Empire: The Spanish American War* (selected parts)

September 26 & October 1

Quiz 3

The Era of Intervention, Panama, and the Mexican Revolution

Video: *Latin America: Intervention in Our Backyard* (short clip)

Video: *Panama Canal: Gateway to the American Century* (selected portions)

October 3

Quiz 4

Nicaragua and Retreat from Intervention

Video: *Yankee Years* (selected portions)

October 8

The Good Neighbor Policy and World War II

Video: *Yankee Years* (short clip)

Video: *Latin America: Intervention in Our Backyard* (short clip)

October 10

Quiz 5

Latin American Responses

October 15

Catch-Up and Review

October 17

First Exam

October 22

Go Over Exam

The Cold War and Latin America

October 24

Intervention in Guatemala and Backlash

Video: *Yankee Years* (selected parts)

October 29 & 31

Quiz 6

The Cuban Revolution and Its Aftermath

Video, *Castro's Challenge* and *The Last Communist*

November 5

From JFK's Alliance for Progress to Human Rights Under Carter

November 7

Quiz 7

Reagan, Central America, and Grenada

Video, *The US in Latin America: Yankee Go Home* (segment on Grenada)

November 12

The End of the Cold War and Geoeconomics

Video, *The Americas in the 21st Century* (selected portions)

November 14

Quiz 8

Latin America: Playing the Geoeconomic Game

Post 9/11: Bush, Obama, and Trump

November 15

Talk by Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, *The Ghost of Fidel Castro: America's Failed Cuba Policy*, 7 p.m. in Blumberg Auditorium

November 19

Latin American Responses: Democracy, the Resurgence of the Left, and a Right Turn?

THANKSGIVING!

November 26

Quiz 9

Dilemmas of Immigration

Video, *The US in Latin America: Yankee Go Home* (segment on Haiti)

November 28

Drug Traffickin Drug Wars

Video, *The US in Latin America: Yankee Go Home* (segment on Panama)

December 3

Quiz 10

Catch-Up and Review

December 5

Second Exam (There is no final exam for this course!)