

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Independent Reading in Political Science Political Science 4370

North American Relations Political Science 4363 Fall 2021

Professor

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Department of Political Science

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm; and by appointment;

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Course Content

The aim of the course is to get students to **think critically**, yet constructively about the issues facing the countries of North America, especially those related to security and migration. This course will help you learn about and discuss these issues in an intelligent and informed manner and enhance your **global awareness**. You will improve your **leadership, confidence, and communication** skills by understanding the difference between rhetorical opinions and positions on issues that are based upon facts and reasoning. In order to do this, we will look at the individual countries' politics and society, the current and past state of relations among the North American countries, and review theories of regionalization, in order to give us the necessary tools to understand contemporary issues.

After completing this course students can:

- Understand the connection between security and migration;
- Explain the methods Canada, Mexico, and the US use to handle these issues;
- Conduct **problem-solving** by formulate policy recommendations for the North American countries; and
- Know the theories and facts behind regional cooperation.

Course Text

This course does not have textbooks to purchase. Instead, all required readings are on Blackboard (Bb).

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java.

Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication

Because this is a remote learning class, we will not see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- Office Hours: I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus and send me an email if you wish to meet during normal office hours or we need setup a time and day that fits our schedules. We can meet in-person or virtually, it is your choice. I will inform you if health conditions require a virtual only meeting.
- Email: 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. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number 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.

UTEP COVID-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support: Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA- related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Course Obligations

There is a mix of obligations the student must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) two exams; 2) an oral presentation; and 3) a policy paper.

Late assignments will not be accepted unless under well-documented extraordinary circumstances.

Typed assignments must use the following format:

- 1) double spaced,
- 2) New Times Roman font (12 point),
- 3) 1 inch margins,
- 4) title page (title, course, name(s), and date),
- 5) page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
- 6) citations (footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical) and a bibliography,
- 7) uploaded on Bb as a “.doc” file.

Reading Assignments

The principal reading obligation is to keep up with the assigned chapters within the course study outline contained in this syllabus. It is important that you read the chapters or articles **before** viewing the presentations.

In addition, students need to follow all issues related to the North American countries and their relationship with one another as they develop in the media. Some suggested periodicals include

the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Christian Science Monitor*. Students with knowledge of Spanish or French are especially encouraged to read Mexican and Quebecois newspapers on the internet. This reading will be important for developing ideas for your collaborative policy papers.

Oral Presentation and Policy Paper

Your presentation and policy paper are an integrated pair. You will first present your project and then turn in a write-up. Did get you started, you will need to fill-out a form that will serve as your project proposal. The project proposal form needs to be uploaded on Bb and due October 22 by midnight (Mountain Time)

Presentation: Students are required to present their understanding of migration and security as associated with North American relations (i.e., the relations among all three NA countries). Presentations must demonstrate well-organized thoughts on the subject. To this end, students need to organize thoughts based upon the following: 1) clear, yet concise, description of the issue and associated concepts; 2) an explanation as to why the problem exists; 3) evidence to support the explanation; and 4) policy recommendations. In addition, students are expected to use computer aided technology (such as PowerPoint) in order to improve speaking effectiveness. Recording of presentation will need to be uploaded to Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), November 19 and should be no more than 15 minutes each.

Policy Paper: A policy paper (about 10 pages) will continue the work already performed in your oral presentation. The aim of this paper is to advise politicians and other decision-makers on an alternative to current policy on migration and security. You need to address recommendations to all three NA governments.

The policy paper differs from the oral reports because **the paper is expected to be a full analysis**. This means students are to employ analytical thinking and related concepts taught in the course. Students are also expected to integrate the constructive critiques made by the professor on your presentation. The policy paper needs to be uploaded onto due by midnight (Mountain Time), December 3.

Exams

There are two exams for the course: a mid-term and final. Both exams are open book notes. The midterm requires answering two essay questions regarding the material covered in the first half course. The final also requires answering two essay questions that will assess your ability to connect theory with the issues covered in the latter half of the course. The professor will give students potential exam questions one week prior. Exams are due by October 8 for the mid-term and December 10 for the final. Both exams are to be uploaded onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time).

Grade Weights

Each assignment and examination will be given a score out of a total 100 points and will be given the following weights in determining students' final grades for the course:

Course Requirement	Due	Weight
Midterm Exam	October 8	20 percent
Project Proposal Form	October 22	10 percent
Oral Presentation	November 19	25 percent
Policy Paper	December 3	25 percent
Final Exam	December 10	20 percent

All grades (including the final grade) are based on the following distribution of points:

Points	Letter
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Course Policies

The following policies are in place in order to better manage the learning environment:

- 1) Most of the communication from me will be posted on Blackboard. Please monitor our course webpage on Blackboard regularly.
- 2) Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. For further information, please refer to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>
- 3) All reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities, will be made. Please see me personally within the first two weeks, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. The Center for Accommodations and Support Services can also be reached in the following ways:
 Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>
 Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY
 E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

Readings, Presentations, Exams and Important Dates

All presentations and readings are posted on Blackboard

Dates	Title	Readings	Guiding Questions
Week 1 (August 23 - 27)	Orientation	Syllabus	What are the course obligations? What is expected of you during this semester? How will you turn in assignments and exams? When will you be decided on the topic for your policy paper? Will you plan out your semester or “take things as they go”?
Week 2 (August 30 – September 3)	Introduction	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Introduction; Pastor Chapter 13	What defines North America? Does it have a common legacy? What is your perception of relationships between the three countries? Have these relationships changed over time? What role does the US play in these relationships? What types of migration occur in NA? What are the different factors that lead someone to migrate? How do security concerns influence migration policy?
Week 3 (September 6 – 10)	A review of the three national histories	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapters 1-3	What are the critical events in the three countries’ histories? Why are they critical? Why did the US and Mexico have wars for independence but the Canadians did not? How would you characterize the paths of development for each? Do they have any commonalities? What are these commonalities based on? Do you see a convergence regarding any aspect of their systems, especially in the late Twentieth Century? While we will go into greater detail later in the course, what can you briefly say about the influence each country has had on the others’ historical development? Do any historical legacies influence the dialogue on migration and security?

Dates	Title	Readings	Guiding Questions
Week 4 (September 13 – 17)	Political Culture: What is the Latino-Anglo divide all about?	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapter 18; Inglehart et al. Chapter 3	What is meant by political culture? What does it include and exclude? What are the values held by the people of the three countries? Does each country have a homogeneous set of values? What values are similar across the three? Which ones are different? Are the differences great? Does this matter? Why? What divides are found in each country? Are these divides similar across the countries? What can you say about societal conflict in each? Does the conflict in each depend on the political culture or are there other explanations? What can the political cultures tell us about the relationships of three countries? What role does trust play?
Week 5 (September 20 – 24)	State institutions: Parliamentary versus Presidential systems	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapters 4 & 9	What are the differences between parliamentary and presidential systems? Why does it matter which system is practiced? What are the major institutions of each? How important are each in the process of developing laws? Would this have an effect on North American relations? Why? What can you say about the sub-national level of governance in each? What can you say about the relationships between the states (provinces) and the center? How has this evolved? Can this method of governance aid or hinder the relationships among the three?

Dates	Title	Readings	Guiding Questions
Week 6 (September 27 – October 1)	Political Economies: The degree of state involvement over time	Bakvis pp. 55-64; Camp pp. 104-110; Zingale pp.154-157; Pastor pp. 1-14	What characteristics does each of the three economies have in common? What determines their individual levels of development? How involved is each country's state in their economy? Has the state taken on a larger or diminishing role over time? What is meant by rent seeking? Does rent seeking occur in each of the three? What about corporatism? Do the three have corporatist arrangements? What are the conditions of these arrangements today? Why would the state's role in the economy matter in North American relations? For example, how would economic outcomes due to state policies influence the issues of migration and security?
<p>Week 7 (October 4 – 8) Midterm Exam Week</p> <p>Potential essay questions will be posted on October 4 and the exam essay answers will be due October 8 by midnight (Mountain Time).</p>			
Week 8 (October 11 – 15)	Theories of Regional Integration	Yeşilada and Wood Chapter 2	Why would comparing European relations be useful in understanding North American relations? What three modes of governance can help us describe European relations? What are the contending theories that can explain and predict regional integration? What would be a useful method in assessing their value? What are the prospects that North American relations develop along European lines? For example, Europeans have addressed migration within the EU in a particular manner. Do you believe this is feasible for NA? What about security?

Dates	Title	Readings	Guiding Questions
Week 9 (October 18 – 22)	Historical Overview of North American Relations: Canadian-US Relations	Roussel Chapters 5-7	What historical events help define the relationship between Canada and the US? How would you characterize the historical relationship between Canada and the US? Has it changed much since Canada gained independence? Would you say that the US is viewed as a trusted ally by Canadian officials? What about how Canada is viewed by US officials? Are Canadian and US preferences on international matters similar? What characterizes the differences?
Project Proposal forms need to be posted onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), October 22.			
Week 10 (October 25 – 29)	Historical Overview of North American Relations: Mexican-US Relations	Domínguez and Fernández introduction and chapters 1-2	What historical events help define the relationship between Mexico and the US? How would you characterize the historical relationship between Mexico and the US? Has it changed much over time? Would you say that the US is viewed as a trusted ally by Mexican officials? What about how Mexico is viewed by US officials? Are Mexican and US preferences on international matters similar? What characterizes the differences? What comparisons can you draw in the histories of the bilateral relationships?

Dates	Title	Readings	Guiding Questions
Week 11 (November 1 – 5)	NAFTA & USMCA	Mayer Chapters 5 and 6	What was the regional economic and political context of the negotiations? What were the domestic contexts? Did the Canadian-US Free Trade Agreement have an influence on the NAFTA negotiations? Why do these negotiations mark a dramatic departure in the preferences of the three countries' long standing positions on free trade arrangements? Why would a two-level game analysis be important in understanding the negotiation process? What are the institutions of NAFTA? Are they truly supranational institutions? What are their key functions? What are the dispute settlement mechanisms associated with NAFTA and the side agreements? Can civil society engage in these processes? Does the agreement suffer from a democratic deficit? What can be said about the economic performance in each country as a result of NAFTA? Is this the only way to evaluate the agreement? Why did the three re-negotiate NAFTA? What is the status of the USMCA?
Week 12 (November 8 – 12)	Is there a link between development, migration, and security?	Domínguez and Fernández Chapters 3 and 6; Pastor Chapter 3	What makes up the European cohesion policies? What are their goals? How similar is this to the development strategy of North America? What explains the differences? What issue linkages are involved in supplying development aid? What are the major obstacles in producing and implementing a coherent strategy? Is such a strategy necessary? Can development goals be achieved in other ways?
Week 13 (November 15 – 19) Upload recorded student presentation onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), November 19.			
Week 14 (November 22 – 24) Thanksgiving November 25 - 26	What now for North American Relations?	Domínguez and Fernández Chapter 7; Pastor Chapters 5-7	What are the current thoughts regarding NAFTA? Are the countries of North America prepared and/or willing to negotiate a deepening of relations? In particular, what role would the US have to play?
Week 15 (November 29 – December 3) Policy papers will need to be uploaded onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), December 3.			
Final Exam Week: Potential essay questions will be posted on December 6 and the exam essay answers will be due December 10 by midnight (Mountain Time).			

