

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

North American Relations Political Science 4363 Spring 2023

Professor

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Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Meeting Time/Location: Wednesdays 10:30-11:50am/Main 306

Office: Benedict Hall 204

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30am; Wednesdays 1-2pm; 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

Some of the 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. You will be better off contacting the Help Desk than contacting me. 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 if we need setup a time and day that fits our schedule. We can meet in-person or virtually, it is your choice.
- **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. If you test positive of COVI-19, please inform UTEP EH&S at 915-747-7162 or COVIDaction@utep.edu.

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. 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.

Study and Project Teams

Students will form teams of three to four members for the weekly discussion sessions and term paper project. Students are welcome to self-organize and the instructor will assist students that need to join a team. Team memberships are due by January 25. More information will come from the instructor.

Hybrid Course Details

This hybrid course has most of its content online and the remainder in-person. All lectures will be asynchronous voiceover presentations posted on Bb, which the instructor will have available on later than Mondays at 10:30am (MST). Wednesdays (10:30-11:50am, MST) are the days that we will meet in person for the team discussion sessions. Questions covered during discussion sessions are on the course schedule found at the end of the syllabus. More detailed instructions are found in each week's module on Bb.

Course Obligations

There is a mix of obligations the student must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes

- 1) Weekly team discussion reports
- 2) Individual Midterm exam
- 3) Team oral presentation
- 4) Team policy paper
- 5) Individual Final exam

Assignments are to be uploaded onto Bb by 11:59pm (MST) of the day they are due. No late assignments will 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.

Weekly Team Discussion and Essays of Assigned Topics (Due each Friday starting January 27)

Each Thursday, we will meet to discuss the week’s topic. To prepare for these group sessions, students must keep up with the assigned readings and voiceover presentations. All topics, readings, and discussion questions are listed in the course schedule found at the end of this syllabus. To maximize the learning experience, the readings and studying the presentations should be done **before** the beginning of the group discussions. Class attendance is expected and participation should contribute to the learning process. If you are not in class, you cannot get credit for the weekly team essays.

Teams will upload their essays each Friday, starting January 27, on Bb. Essays must include:

- 1) Clear presentation of the week’s discussion question and its relevance.
- 2) The group’s answer to the question.
- 3) Reaction of at least one other group’s answer to the question.
- 4) Written from an objective prospective.
- 5) 3 pages (\pm one page) in length.

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.

Team Oral Presentations and Policy Paper

Your team presentation and policy paper are an integrated pair. Your team will first present your project and then turn in a write-up. To 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 March 22 by midnight (Mountain Time)

Presentation (Due April 19): 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. Presentations will occur April 19 and must be uploaded to Bb before class begins.

Team Policy Paper (Due May 5): A team policy paper (about 10 pages) will continue the work already performed in your team 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), May 5.

Exams (Due March 10 and May 12)

There are two exams for the course: a mid-term and final. Both exams will require essay answers that will test knowledge of key concepts and terms and assess analytical thinking of theories and facts. The mid-term will cover the material in the part one of course and the final will be comprehensive (parts one and two). The exams are open book, open notes, and answers will be uploaded onto Bb. A list of potential essay questions will be given the Monday (March 6 & May 8) of the exam week and answers are due on the following Friday (March 10 & May 12). The instructor will email students which questions to answer on the Thursday (by 5pm, MST) before the exam is due (March 9 and May 11).

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
Weekly Team Reports	Each Friday starting January 27	10 percent
Midterm Examination	March 10	20 percent
Team Term Paper Proposal	March 22	5 percent
Team Presentation	April 19	15 percent
Team Policy Paper	May 5	25 percent
Final Examination	May 12	25 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

Course Schedule for Voiceover Presentations, In-Class Activities, Exams, and Assignment Due Dates

All presentations are posted on Bb

Week (Date)	Topic/Presentation	Readings	In-Class Activity
Part I: Introduction			
Week 1 (January 18)	Orientation	Syllabus	Review course specifics and Q&A.
Week 2 (January 25)	Introduction	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Introduction; Pastor Chapter 13	How would you define North America?
Part II: The North American Partners			
Week 3 (February 1)	A review of the three national histories	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapters 1-3	What are the critical events of the three countries' histories?
Week 4 (February 8)	Political Culture: What is the Latino-Anglo divide all about?	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapter 18; Inglehart et al. Chapter 3	How would you describe the political cultures of each country?
Week 5 (February 15)	State institutions: Parliamentary versus Presidential systems	Abu-Laban, Jhappan, and Rocher Chapters 4 & 9	Why do the institutional arrangements of each country matter?
Week 6 (February 22)	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	How would you describe the characteristics does each of the three economies?

Week (Date)	Topic/Presentation	Readings	In-Class Activity
Part III: The Relationship of North America			
Week 7 (March 1)	Regional Integration Theories	Yeşilada and Wood Chapter 2	What are the contending theories that can explain and predict regional integration?
Week 8 Midterm Exam Week Potential essay questions will be posted on March 6 and the exam essay answers will be due March 10 by midnight (Mountain Time).			
Spring Break (March 15) No Classes			
Week 9 (March 22)	Historical Overview: Canadian-US Relations	Roussel Chapters 5-7	What historical events help define the relationship between Canada and the US?
Project Proposal forms need to be posted onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), March 22.			
Week 10 (March 29)	Historical Overview: Mexican-US Relations	Domínguez and Fernández introduction and chapters 1-2	What historical events help define the relationship between Mexico and the US?
Week 11 (April 5)	NAFTA & USMCA	Mayer Chapters 5 and 6	What are the major factors that produced NAFTA and the USMCA?
Week 12 (April 12)	Is there a link between development, migration, and security?	Domínguez and Fernández Chapters 3 and 6; Pastor Chapter 3	How would you describe the North American development strategy?
Week 13 (April 19) Team presentations			
Week 14 (April 26)	What now for North American Relations?	Domínguez and Fernández Chapter 7; Pastor Chapters 5-7	What do you predict will happen with North American integration?
Week 15 Team Policy Papers will need to be uploaded onto Bb by midnight (Mountain Time), May 5.			
Final Exam Week: Potential essay questions will be posted on May 8 and the exam essay answers will be due May 12 by midnight (Mountain Time).			