



Full Course Overview | DSS 5310: Strategic Survey of the Americas

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Course Dates | March 14th, 2022 – May 1st, 2022

Classes | Online Please Note | This Syllabus Subject to Change – please let me know if you spot any typos/confusions

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| <p>Module 1</p> <p>Introduction Beneath the United States? The Americas in the U.S.’ Historical Imagination</p> | <p>Dates & Deadlines</p> <p><i>Class</i> 03.14.22</p> |
| <p><i>Readings</i></p> <p><i>Required Readings</i></p> <p>Gregory B. Weeks U.S. and Latin American Relations 2nd edn. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015) Ch 2, Ch 3</p> <p>The Monroe Doctrine</p> <p>Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine</p> <p><i>Coursework/Additional Readings</i></p> | <p><i>Weekly Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Required – by end of week</i></p> <p><i>Introductory Post</i></p> <p><i>Due 03.20.22</i></p> |

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| <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 1, Ch 4</p> <p>Connell-Smith, Gordon, 'Latin America in the Foreign Relations of the US', <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i>, vol.8, no.1, (1976), pp.137-150.</p> <p>Veesser, Cyrus, 'Inventing Dollar Diplomacy: The Gilded-Age Origins of the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine', <i>Diplomatic History</i>, vol.27, no.3, (2003), pp.301-326.</p> <p>Class Questions</p> <p>What are our course aims? What will we cover? What are the key expectations? How to do well!</p> <p>What are your overriding thoughts on U.S. hemispheric relations, strategy, and threats?</p> <p>What was the nature of U.S. relations with its hemisphere prior to the Cold War?</p> <p>Was the US a hegemon or an empire in the Americas? What is the difference between hegemony and empire?</p> | |
| <p>Module 2</p> <p>The U.S. as Hemispheric Imperial Power? Strategic Interests and the Cold War</p> | <p>Class</p> <p>03.21.22</p> |
| <p>Core Readings</p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 5, Ch 7</p> <p>Coursework/Additional Readings</p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 6</p> <p>U.S. Office of the Historian 'Kennan and Containment'</p> <p>George F. Kennan (writing as 'X') 'The Sources of Soviet Conduct' <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (1947)</p> <p>Jeane J. Kirkpatrick 'Dictatorships and Double Standards'</p> <p>Have a dig around the National Security Archive this week and do some independent research on the interventions Weeks discusses if you are interested (plenty to choose from!)</p> <p>Class Questions</p> <p>What role did Latin America play in the Cold War?</p> | <p>Weekly Discussion</p> <p><i>By end of week</i></p> <p>Discussion Piece:</p> <p><i>Due 03.27.22 11.59pm/complete optional replies by 03.29.22 11.59pm</i></p> |

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| <p>Were U.S. Cold War interventions justified? Were they all about communism?</p> <p>Was the US still acting as a hegemon or something else in this period?</p> <p>What is the historical legacy of the U.S. influence in the Americas, especially (but not exclusively) during the Cold War</p> <p>Discussion Post Prompt(s)</p> <p>Explain the main logics of ‘dollar diplomacy’</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Up to 1945, was the U.S. a type of hegemon or empire in the Americas?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Discuss continuity and change with regards to U.S. regional strategic interests pre-Cold War and into that ideological conflict</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Briefly discuss a US Cold War intervention in the region – what triggered it, what were the consequences?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Connect events in Cuba in 1959 to pre-Cold War history</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Were Central American/Caribbean countries revolutions “inevitable”</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Pick a WH country (other than the U.S.!) and outline its broad Cold War relations with the U.S.</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Briefly explain the logics and context of the Monroe Doctrine and the Roosevelt Corollary to it</p> | |
| <p>Module 3</p> <p>After the Cold War Democratization and Shifting Concerns?</p> | <p>Class</p> <p>03.28.22 (</p> |
| <p>Core Readings</p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 8, Ch 11</p> | <p>Weekly Discussion</p> |

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| <p>Fukuyama, Francis, 'The End of History?' <i>The National Interest</i>, vol. 16, (1989), pp. 3-18.</p> <p><i>Supplementary Readings</i></p> <p>Windsor, Jennifer, 'Democracy and Development: The Evolution of US Foreign Assistance Policy' <i>The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs</i>, vol.27, no.2, (2003), pp.141-150.</p> <p>Cox, Michael, Timothy J. Lynch and Nicolas Bouchet [eds.] <i>U.S. Foreign Policy and Democracy Promotion: From Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama</i> (New York: Routledge, 2013) E-book in UTEP library with useful background and specific info from the period.</p> <p>Paul Ashby 'U.S. National Security in the Western Hemisphere' in Derek S. Reveron, Nikolas K. Gvosdev and John A. Cloud <i>The Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security</i> (Oxford University Press, 2018)</p> <p><i>Class Questions</i></p> <p>Did U.S. strategic goals in Latin America change post-Cold War?</p> <p>What was the nature of democracy promotion post-Cold War?</p> <p>How successful was U.S. democracy promotion in Latin America?</p> <p>What were the U.S.' economic goals in Latin America post-Cold War? Had they changed?</p> <p>How do democracy promotion and economics fit with strategic goals?</p> | <p><i>Required by end of the week</i></p> |
| <p>Module 4</p> <p>Strategic Challenge I - Drugs</p> | <p><i>Class</i></p> <p>04.04.22</p> |
| <p><i>Core Readings</i></p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 12</p> <p><i>Recommended Readings on the Drug Trade and Policy</i></p> <p>Loveman, Brian <i>Addicted to Failure: U.S. Security Policy in Latin America and the Andean Region</i> (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006) Ch 1 (I am planning to share this with you)</p> <p>Felbab-Brown, Vanda 'A State Building Approach to the Drug Trade Problem'</p> <p><i>Case Study: Colombia</i></p> <p>O'Hanlon, Michael E. and Gen. David Patraeus 'The Success Story in</p> | <p>Weekly Discussion</p> <p><i>By end of week</i></p> <p>Discussion Pieces</p> <p><i>Due 04.10.22 11.59pm/complete optional replies by</i></p> |

[Colombia'](#)

04.12.22

11.59pm

Isacson, Adam ['Colombia: Don't Call it a Model'](#)

Class Questions

What are the security and strategic impacts of drugs, and the war upon them, in the Americas?

What are the successes and failures in the 'War on Drugs'?

What is the contemporary nature of the drug war and the threats to U.S. strategic interests, and the peoples of the Americas?

How successful was Plan Colombia? Can its lessons be exported elsewhere?

Is the drug war a 'trojan horse' for established US interests in its region?

Discussion Post Prompt(s)

Did the end of the Cold War signal the end of U.S. hegemony / empire in the Americas?

Or

Discuss continuity and change with regards to U.S. regional strategic interests during and post-Cold War

Or

Briefly discuss democratization in a Latin American country of your choice

Or

Briefly discuss U.S. post-Cold War grand strategy debates and the Western Hemisphere

Or

Has the Western Hemisphere reached Fukuyama's 'End of History'?

Or

What is the Washington Consensus? Does it remain important to the U.S.?

Or

Is democracy important to US interests in the Americas?

Or

Briefly critically discuss Plan Colombia

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| <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>How should the fight against the drug trade and its impacts be prosecuted into the future?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Is the drug war a 'trojan horse' for established U.S. interests in its region?</p> | |
| <p>Module 5</p> <p>Strategic Challenge II - Transnational Crime</p> | <p><i>Class</i></p> <p>04.11.22</p> |
| <p><i>Core Readings</i></p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 10</p> <p><i>Case Study – Central American Violence</i></p> <p>Aroop Mukharji ‘The Central American Conundrum: Toward a New Regional Security and Economic Order’ <i>War on the Rocks</i> (October 5th, 2020)</p> <p>Renwick, Danielle ‘Central America’s Violent Northern Triangle’ Links to other resources within this</p> <p>U.S. White House ‘U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America’ President Biden was heavily involved in this during the Obama administration – I’ll try and update any policy stuff!</p> <p><i>Supplementary Readings</i></p> <p>Felbab-Brown, Vanda ‘Crime, Low-Intensity Conflict and the Future of War in the Twenty-First Century’</p> <p>Farah, Douglas ‘Transnational Organized Crime, Terrorism, and Criminalized States in Latin America: An Emerging Tier-One National Security Priority’</p> <p>Farah, Douglas ‘Terrorist-Criminal Pipelines and Criminalized States: Emerging Alliances’</p> <p>Shifter, Michael ‘Countering Criminal Violence in Central America’</p> <p>Felbab-Brown, Vanda ‘Fighting the Nexus of Organized Crime and Violent Conflict while Enhancing Human Security’ Link to wider source, too.</p> <p>Andersen, Martin Edwin ‘A Road Map for Beating Latin America’s Transnational Criminal Organizations’</p> | <p>Weekly Discussion</p> <p><i>Required by end of week</i></p> <p>Final Assignment Plan:</p> <p><i>Due 04.15.22, 11.59pm</i></p> |

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| <p>Class Questions</p> <p>What are the threats to U.S. strategic interests from transnational crime?</p> <p>What is the security situation in parts of Central America? How can this challenge be met?</p> | |
| <p>Module 6</p> <p>Strategic Challenge III – North American Security</p> | <p>Class</p> <p>04.18.22</p> |
| <p>Core Readings</p> <p>Heyman, Josiah ‘Guns, Drugs, and Money: Tackling the Real Threats to Border Security’ <i>Immigration Policy Center</i> (2011)</p> <p>David Patraeus, Paras D. Bhayani ‘North America: the Next Great Emerging Market’ <i>Foreign Policy</i> (June 25th, 2015)</p> <p>Supplementary Readings</p> <p>CFR ‘North America: Time for a New Focus’</p> <p>Cope, John A. ‘A Prescription for Protecting the Southern Approach’</p> <p>Ashby, Paul ‘How Canada and Mexico Have Become Part of the U.S. Policing Regime’</p> <p>Ashby, Paul ‘Trade Efficiency and Border Security at Odds on the U.S. Mexico Border’</p> <p>Payan, Tony ‘Working at Cross Purposes: How National Security Strategies Undermine North American Regional Security’ <i>International Studies Review</i> 16 (2014) pp. 700-701</p> <p>Richard J. Kilroy Jr., Abelardo Rodriguez Sumano, Todd Hataley ‘Security Inequalities in North America: Reassessing Regional Security Complex Theory’ <i>Journal of Strategic Security</i> 10, 4 (2017)</p> <p>Class Questions</p> <p>Is there a North American regional security framework? What threats does/can it meet? What are its impacts on different groups security?</p> <p>How does North American security link with other strategic challenges we have discussed?</p> <p>Who wins and who loses from the creation of a North American security perimeter?</p> <p>Does human security inform efforts against transnational crime? Should it?</p> | <p>Weekly Open Discussion</p> <p><i>By end of week</i></p> <p>Discussion Piece:</p> <p><i>Due 04.24.22 11.59pm/complete optional replies by 04.26.22 11.59pm</i></p> <p>Final Course Evaluation:</p> <p><i>Please complete the evaluation survey provided by UTEP – extra credit at stake!</i></p> |

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| <p>Discussion Post Prompts</p> <p>Does human security inform efforts against transnational crime? Should it?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Should the U.S. build states in Central America?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Does security in North America have to be coordinated regionally? Why/why not?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Can regional security threats be met through border security approaches?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Are the Americas a strategically overlooked region?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>What does the Venezuela crisis tell us about U.S. engagement in its region?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Where do the Americas fit into a more realist, great power world?</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p>Explore impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine for our region</p> | |
| <p>Module 7</p> <p>The Forgotten Hemisphere? The Americas and U.S. Grand Strategy into the 21st Century</p> | <p>Class</p> <p>04.25.22</p> |
| <p>Core Readings</p> <p>Weeks <i>U.S and Latin American Relations</i> Ch 9</p> <p>Ellis, R Evan ‘Strategic Insights: The Strategic Relevance of Latin America for the United States’</p> <p>Michael Sinclair ‘Under Biden, the United States should be there for its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere’ <i>Brookings</i> (November 24th, 2020)</p> <p>Adam Isacson ‘Great Power Competition comes for Latin America’ <i>War on the Rocks</i> (February 24th, 2022)</p> <p>Supplementary Readings</p> <p>Robert B. Zoellick ‘Biden’s Domestic Priorities Should Guide His Foreign</p> | <p>Weekly Discussion</p> <p><i>Required by end of week</i></p> <p>Final Assignment:</p> <p><i>Due 04.29.22, 11.59pm</i></p> |

Policy' *Foreign Affairs* (September 8th, 2020)

'The Collapse of Venezuela' *Foreign Affairs*

I'll share some readings in Blackboard

Class Questions

Are there continuities from the past in the strategic challenges we have discussed, and the U.S. response to them?

What does the future hold for U.S. regional relations?

Where does Latin America fit into a more realist, great power world?