This course offers an analytical survey of U.S. relations with Latin America. Historical perspective extends from the 1820s to the present, with special attention to the shape and implications of the post-9/11 international environment. Coverage will focus on processes of economic integration (including NAFTA), illegal drug trafficking, undocumented migration, environmental protection, and the challenges of “homeland security.”

Course requirements include:

1. regular attendance at class sessions;

2. assigned readings:
   
   • Peter H. Smith, *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States, and the World*, 4th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), and

   • Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, *Contemporary U.S.-Latin American Relations* (New York: Routledge, 2010), hereinafter DFC.

Lecture outlines can be found under a POLI 146A directory on the instructor’s website at the following address: <http://pages.ucsd.edu/~phsmith>

**Papers and Examinations**

1. A closed-book midterm exam will take place on **Thursday, November 20** (this will count for one-third the course grade).

2. All students are required to submit 10-to-15 page analytical papers by 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 11** (this will count for two-thirds the course grade).
PERSPECTIVES AND THEMES

**Oct 02:** Course Structure and Design
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, Introduction

HISTORICAL TRENDS

**Oct 07:** Imperialism in the Americas
**Oct 09:** Latin American Responses
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, chs. 1-4

**Oct 14:** Cold War in the Americas
**Oct 16:** Latin American Responses
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, chs. 5-8

**Oct 21:** After the Cold War: From Geopolitics to Geoeconomics
**Oct 23:** The Global War on Terror
**Oct 28:** Video “Missing” *<or other>*
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, chs. 9-11
CURRENT ISSUES

Oct 30: Politics around the World: Opportunity for Latin America

Nov 04: Politics in Latin America: The Rise of the New Left
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, ch. 12
DFC, *Contemporary*, chs. 6-8 (Argentina, Brazil, Chile)

Nov 06: The Political Economy of Drug Trafficking

Nov 11: Video <TBA>

Nov 13: Debating Policy Alternatives
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, ch. 14
DFC, *Contemporary*, chs. 2, 9 (Mexico, Colombia)

Nov 18: Dilemmas of Migration

Nov 20: MID-TERM EXAM

Nov 25: Debating Policy Alternatives
Reading:
Smith, *Talons*, ch. 13
DFC, *Contemporary*, chs. 4, 5 (Central America, Caribbean)

Dec 02: What’s Up with Cuba?

Dec 04: Debating Policy Alternatives

FINAL PERSPECTIVES

Dec 09: U.S. Policy from Bush to Obama: What Went Wrong?

Dec 11: PAPER DUE