PLS 146A:

US-Latin American Political and Economic Relations

Summer 2017

Lecture: HSS 2150 (MW 9:00-12pm)

Instructor: Andrew Janusz (ajanusz@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Thursday 9am-12pm CILAS Room 17

This course will analyze the origins and consequences of U.S. policies toward Latin America. The first part of the class will examine the history of U.S.-Latin American relations from the colonial period to World War II. The second part of the class will be devoted to exploring US relations during and following the Cold War. Throughout the course we will discuss the political and economic motivations of US policymaking in the region.

Course requirements include:

1. Regular attendance at lectures/discussions;

2. Assigned readings from:

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


   - All readings will be posted on the TED website

Lecture outlines can be found on the course TED page following each lecture.

GRADING

1. Quizzes (15%)

2. Class Participation (15%)
   - Includes current events report

3. A mid-term examination (30%); and

4. A three-hour final examination (40%).
Quizzes
A portion of each student’s grade will be determined by their performance on short quizzes administered at the beginning of class. Quizzes are intended to encourage students to keep up with assigned reading and ensure that everyone is prepared to participate in class discussions in an informed and critical manner. Since the material on quizzes will be discussed in class, students will not be able to make up missed quizzes.

Class Participation
Student participation in class discussions is facilitates learning. As a result, students are encouraged to take an active role in class and participate by asking questions, sharing their opinions, and critiquing the assigned material. Moreover, students are encouraged to explore events not discussed in class through event reports.

Current Event Reports:
Each student will do one current event report. Students should plan a three to five minute presentation based on a news article (suggested sources include Foreign Affairs, The Economist, The NY Times, the Miami Herald) that . You can focus on economic issues, security issues, or politics. Students should post a short summary of their report on the course website, including information on the source of the article so that everyone can read the article. The report should provide a bit of background and suggest a discussion about the motivations and legitimacy of the U.S. actions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction 8/7
Smith, Talons, Introduction & Chapter 1

Galeano, Open Veins of Latin America Introduction (First 4 pages of PDF)


Imperialism 8/9
Smith, Talons, Chapters 2-4

Documents: Holden & Zolov, Pages 6- 21, 23-28, 71-77, 82-83, 91-93, & 96-98

Coldwar 8/14
Smith, Talons, Chapters 5-8

Geoeconomics 8/16
Smith, Talons, Chapters 10 & 12
Holden & Zolov, Pages 342-345, 351-354
NACLA “Privatization and its Discontents” J/F 2003 pp 12-28, 34-36

Midterm 8/21

New Era of Democracy Promotion? 8/23
Kinzer, Overthrow, Chapters 13 & 14
Legler et al Promoting Democracy in the Americas Shaw “The US: Rhetoric and Reality”
Grandin, “Democracy, Diplomacy, and Intervention in the Americas” In the Name of Democracy, NACLA January/February 2007

Migration 8/28
Smith, Talons, Chapters 13-14
Holden & Zolov, Pages 390-396
Documents: Remarks by President Obama in Address to the Nation on Immigration (November 20, 2014)

International Crime 8/30
Brief History of Drug War

Read Global Commissions Report
https://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/reports/war-on-drugs/

Skim 1 or 2 WOLA Reports

Holden & Zolov, Pages 378-382

Holiday No Class 9/4

Reflections and Review 9/6
Smith, Chapter 15


Final Exam 9/8
8AM to 10:50 AM Location TBA