COURSE SYLLABUS
POLI 235A/IRGN 490/Winter 2015

LATIN AMERICA IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Instructor: Peter H. Smith
Teaching Assistant: Sara Bivin

IR/PS Gardner Room        Tuesday 6:00-8:50 p.m.

This course will explore Latin America’s changing position in the contemporary world arena. How have countries of the region (or groups of countries) responded to shifting balances of global power? Have they managed to take advantage of changing contexts? What results have they achieved?

Our first discussion will examine alternative conceptions of the international distribution of power. Subsequent sessions will focus on reciprocal economic and political relationships between selected nations--Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela--and extra-hemispheric power centers (China, Russia, Europe, and Iran). Concluding sessions will deal with international organizations and the choice of institutional arenas.

There is no single text for this course. The reading list draws from many sources, among them Gian Luca Gardini and Peter Lambert, *Latin American Foreign Policies: Between Ideology and Pragmatism* (2011), hereinafter Gardini and Lambert, *Foreign Policies*; and *Latin America and the Shifting Sands of Global Power*, a special issue of the Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research (2013), hereinafter *Shifting Sands*. Thoughtful coverage of current international events can be found in *The Economist*. We also have an outstanding roster of guest speakers.

**Requirements**

Students will be required to submit two “IR/PS style” policy memos of three pages in length. The first will be due on Tuesday, February 17; the second is due on March 10.

All students must read “required” assignments prior to every class. They must also join study groups on weekly topics and analyze prevailing literature through “pro-and-con” debates on specific issues; for this they should digest “suggested” materials as well as other sources they might uncover on their own.

Grades will be based on the policy memos, debate performances, analyses of readings, and participation in classroom discussion.

A working command of Spanish or Portuguese would be helpful but is not required.
COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION

Jan 06: Queries and Concepts

Required:

Gardini and Lambert, *Foreign Policies*, introduction and ch. 1

http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b8159959~S9


Moisés Naim, *The End of Power*, chs. 1, 6, and 7

Excerpts available on Google Books

Suggested:


Jan 13: Sizing Up the Neighborhood

Guest Speaker: David Mares (UCSD)

Required:

Mares, “Intra-Latin American Relations: The Challenge of Promoting Cooperation While Defending Sovereignty”

http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b8121595~S9 [access may be limited to one user at a time; try again later if refused]

Suggested:


http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjil20/19/2#.Uy8crpSaSfu

**LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICIES**

**Jan 20: Brazil--An Emerging Giant?**

Guest Speaker: Riordan Roett (SAIS/Johns Hopkins)

Required:


http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b7168560~S9

Larry Rohter, *Brazil on the Rise* (New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2010), ch. 9


Suggested:


Sean Burges, “Mistaking Brazil for a Middle Power,” *Shifting Sands*, 286-302

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjil20/19/2#.Uy8crpSaSfu


http://lap.sagepub.com/content/34/5/58.full.pdf
Jan 27: Venezuela--After Chávez, What?

Guest Speaker: Javier Corrales (Amherst College)

Required:


http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01636600903232285


Suggested:


https://muse.jhu.edu/books/9780813048130


Feb 03: Mexico--Jockeying for Position

Guest Speakers: Rafael Fernández de Castro (ITAM) and Arturo Sarukhan (WWICS)

Required:


http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b6983951~S9 [Volume 12 of this set]

Suggested:

Ana Covarrubias, “Cuba and Haiti in Mexico’s Foreign Policy,” *International Journal* 2006 (61, 3): 661–76

http://www.jstor.org/stable/40204196


Feb 10: Cuba—What Now?

Guest Speakers: H. Michael Erisman (Indiana State University) and Richard Feinberg (IR/PS)

Required:


http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b8129784~S9 [access may be limited to one user at a time]


Richard Feinberg, “Reaching Out: Cuba’s New Economy and the International Response” (2011)


Carlos Alzugaray Treto, “Los fundamentos de la política exterior de Cuba, 2001-2011”

Suggested:


For newspaper coverage see <nytimes.com/cubastart>
MAJOR POWER CENTERS

Feb 17: The European Union

Required:


[http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b7674113~S9](http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b7674113~S9) [access may be limited to one user at a time]


[http://dspace.uah.es/dspace/handle/10017/19845](http://dspace.uah.es/dspace/handle/10017/19845)

Suggested:


DOI: 10.1111/j.0021-9886.2005.00551.x


Feb 24: What Does China Really Want?

Guest Speaker: Weiyi Shi (IR/PS)

Required:

Jorge I. Domínguez, “China’s Relations with Latin America: Shared Gains, Asymmetric Hopes”

[http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/china.pdf](http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/china.pdf)

Kevin P. Gallagher, “Capitalizing on the China Cycle: Time is Running Out for Latin America”

R. Evan Ellis, “The United States, Latin America and China: A ‘Triangular Relationship’”?

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/latin_american_research_review/summary/v046/46.2.feinberg.html

Suggested:


*China’s and India’s Challenge to Latin America: Opportunity or Threat?* (Washington, DC: The World Bank, 2009)
https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/2591


Mar 03: International Organizations—UN, WTO, OAS

Required:

Gardini and Lambert, Foreign Policies, ch. 13


http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13533310903036418


Arturo C. Sotomayor Velázquez and Gustavo Vega Cánovas, El mundo desde México: Ensayos de política internacional (México: El Colegio de México, 2008), tercera parte (“México en la ONU”)

Mónica Herz, The Organization of American States: Global Governance Away from the Media (2011), selected chapters

Mar 10: Rogues and Other Contenders

Required:


http://digilib.gmu.edu/jspui/bitstream/1920/3022/1/Putin%20Chavez%20POPC%20article.pdf


http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/iran-latin-america-threat-or-axis-annoyance

Michael Dodson and Manochehr Dorraj, “Populism and Foreign Policy in Venezuela and Iran,” Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations 2008 (9, 71)

Suggested:


[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/washington_quarterly/v030/30.2trenin.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/washington_quarterly/v030/30.2trenin.html)

Andrés Malamud, “Argentine Foreign Policy under the Kirchners: Ideological, Pragmatic, or Simply Peronist?” in Gardini and Lambert, *Foreign Policies*, ch. 5

Roberto Russell and Juan Gabriel Tokotlian, “Implications of the Global and Regional Changes for Argentina’s Foreign Relations,” *Shifting Sands*, 251-267

[http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjil20/19/2#.Uy8crpSaSfu](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjil20/19/2#.Uy8crpSaSfu)