The course is a survey of U.S.-Latin American relations. To understand the international relationship, one must also look to domestic factors on both sides. Thus we begin with a brief historical overview, move to address the challenges of Latin American development and democracy, examine some key bilateral relationships and end with the two major factors influencing the US-Latin American relationship today: the rise of China and the Trump phenomenon. The key themes underlying the course are Latin American agency in the relationship, sovereignty and international commitments, conflict and cooperation, the U.S. as an enabler of various Latin American actors, and the relationships between government and society in both the U.S. and Latin America.

The U.S. and Latin America have a long relationship. Both faced similar challenges at their respective independence: all these nations were developed and socio-politically dominated by immigrant populations, and confronted violent experiences in consolidating their social, political and economic systems. While the U.S. is one country with a strong federal character that facilitates important regional variations, Latin America is a region, bringing together many countries, most under a centralized political system. The U.S. and Latin America now find themselves in a world that is moving in the direction of a new global order, the outlines of which are still murky, and this process will influence their relationship in as yet unforeseen ways.

Readings: All readings are available on our TritonED course website; you do not need to purchase any readings. Readings are expected to be read before the relevant class session. Readings average 110-150 pages per week, so do not wait until the night before to begin.

Course Requirements: TopHat software: We will use TopHat to evaluate class participation, which includes attendance as well as responses to in-class questions regarding course readings. Students are required to purchase a license for this software. A license can be purchased which is good for five years and useable across classes; alternatively, you may purchase a license for this quarter only. For an introduction to the software, please go to [https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide](https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide) and to purchase your subscription, go to [https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-a-Top-Hat-Subscription](https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-a-Top-Hat-Subscription)

Grading will be based on class participation (10% via TopHat in-class software) a midterm (40%) and final exam (50%). You are responsible for material in the readings and that which is presented in lecture. PowerPoints summarizing the lectures will be available on the course web site at TritonEd, but lectures are not PodCast. Cheating on exams will result in failure of the entire course.
**SYLLABUS**

*Introduction to the Relationship 1776-2014*

**Week 1 Building Nations and Relationships: Domestic, Regional & International Challenges, 1776-1874**

*Tue: US*


*Thur: Latin America*


**Week 2 Consolidating US Influence: Latin American Weaknesses and Great Power Politics, 1891-1945**

*Tue: Latin America*


Elliot A. Marcus, “Chile and Hispanic-American Solidarity, 1830-1865” *The Americas*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (Oct., 1952), pp. 177-200

Thur: US


**Week 3 The Cold War, 1948-1989**

**Tue: Cold War Dynamics**


*THIS READING NEEDS TO BE ACCESSED DIRECTLY ONLINE*


*Thur: Getting Past the Cold War*

Jorge G. Castañeda, “Latin America and the End of the Cold War” *Transition*, No. 59 (1993), pp. 45-64

**Week 4**

**Tue: Globalization I: Export-led Growth and Foreign Investment 19th C**


*Thur: Import Substitution Industrialization*


**Week 5 Globalization II: Economics & Politics in the 1980s/1990s**

*Tue: The “Lost Decade”*


*Thur: Commodity Booms*


David R. Mares, “The Parameters of Resource Nationalism and Energy Policy” MS

****Week 6 TUE MIDTERM****

*The Challenge of Democracy*

**Week 6 Electoral democracy, military coups and military governments**

*Thur: Democratic Instabilities*


David Pion-Berlin and Harold Trinkunas, “Civilian Praetorianism and Military Shirking During Constitutional Crises in Latin America” Comparative Politics, Vol. 42, No. 4 (July 2010), pp. 395-411


**Week 7 Democracies in Latin America’s Third Wave**

*Tue: Contextualizing Democracy*


Inter-American Democracy Charter, available at [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)


*Thur: “Pink Tide” dynamics*


**Country Experiences**

**Week 8 Cuba and Venezuela**

*Tue: Cuba*


Brookings, “Reactions to Trump’s Policy on Cuba” June 20, 2017

*Thur: Venezuela*

International Crisis Group, “Power with the People: Averting Venezuela’s Breakdown.”

**Week 9 Regional Rivals: Brazil and Mexico**

*Tue: Brazil*

Leslie Elliott Armijo, ”The Brics Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) as Analytical Category: Mirage Or Insight?” *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 31, No. 4, 2007, pp. 7-42.

Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Beyond the Headlines: The U.S.-Brazil Relationship”

Harold Trinkunas and Ian Wallace, *Converging on the Future of Global Internet Governance: The United States and Brazil* Brookings Foreign Policy, July 2015

*Thur: Mexico*


Dan Restrepo, Michael Werz, and Joel Martinez, “Preserving and Strengthening the US-Mexico Relationship” *American Progress*, January 30, 2017


**New Paths?**

**Week 10**

*Tue: China in the US-Latin American Relationship*

Antonio Hsiang, “Trump Makes China Great in Latin America” *The Diplomat* April 21, 2017


*Thur: Trump – Old Wine in New Bottles?*

Inter-American Dialogue, “Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America” (April 2012)


Tom Long and Max Paul Friedman, “Trump and Latin America: Asymmetry and the Problem of Influence” America and the World—2017 and Beyond H-Diplo | ISSF POLICY Series

Andrew J. Kirkendall, “U.S.-Latin American Relations in the Age of Donald Trump” POLICY Series America and the World - 2017 and Beyond 16 February 2017 H-Diplo | ISSF