IR 177: The International Relations of Latin America

Spring 2012

SYLLABUS version 2.0

Henri J. Barkey
Maginnes 206
83384, hjb2@lehigh.edu
Office Hours:
Tuesday 2:30-4:00; Wednesday 9-10 and by appointment

This is a course about the international relations of Latin America. This course will focus on the challenges that have faced Latin America starting with its colonial legacy to the struggle for development, military meddling in civilian politics to its debilitating debt crisis and complex relations with the United States. The course will also look at the different strategies the various Latin American countries have adopted to both adapt and contest the forces of globalization.

Latin American countries, despite their unifying colonial starting point, have charted different courses for themselves. These courses range from Brazil, the behemoth, and contender for a global role to Venezuela, intent on using its oil money to contest US influence to Mexico which, after a hundred years after its revolution, may have finally made its peace with its northern neighbor. These do not represent the totality of the strategies out there. How do Paraguay or Ecuador or Peru and Colombia deal with rapid change?

The requirements for the course are the following: there will be one mid-term, one final exam and two short assignments that will be the basis of in-class presentations. Students will write on two countries of their choice. One of the two will be on the international political economy of the country and the second on its foreign relations. These assignments will be discussed in greater detail in class. Grades will be based on these four (30, 20, 20 and 30 percent, respectively) and class participation can count to up to an extra 10 percent. This course will rely heavily on class discussions and students must come to class prepared having done the readings for the week.

Class attendance is mandatory I reserve the right to automatically fail you if you miss more than 3 classes.

Students must also read a quality daily: this usually means the New York Times.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: THIS IS A LAPTOP CLOSED CLASS. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THEIR LAPTOPS DURING LECTURE HOURS FOR NOTE TAKING OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR.
There are two books assigned:


There will also be readings on Coursesite

Week of

1. January 16: Why Latin America?  
   V&P 1, Williams Foreword and Preface

2. January 23: Colonial Heritage  
   V&P 2 and 4

3. January 30: Immediate Antecedents  
   V&P 3, 5, 6

4. February 6: Political Economy and Authoritarianism  
   V&P 7-9

5. February 13: Institutions and Social Movements  
   V&P 9-10

   Williams 3-5

7. February 27: Mid Term

   February 29: Cold War  
   Williams 6&7

8. March 5: Spring Break

9. March 12: Argentina  
   V&P 16

10. March 19: Brazil  
    first paper due  
    V&P15  
    CFR Report from coursite

11. March 26: Chile, Bolivia and Peru  
    V&P 17, 21
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. April 2</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V&amp;P 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. April 9</td>
<td>Colombia &amp; Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14&amp;19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. April 16</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V&amp;P 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. April 23</td>
<td>Political Economy and US Relations in the 21st Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Williams 9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second paper due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Policy on Academic Integrity: Students are encouraged to look at the IR Department’s policy on academic integrity by following this link:

http://cas.lehigh.edu/casweb/Content/Resources/download.aspx?ID=48

Also the University has a site: [http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/academicintegrity.html](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inprv/academicintegrity.html)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center 212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

[http://www.lehigh.edu/%7Einacsup/disabilities/](http://www.lehigh.edu/%7Einacsup/disabilities/)