

# PSCI 4280 – Inter American Relations

Fall 2009

T-TH 11:30-12:45

AS 310

## Office Hours

TTH 10:00-11:00/ W 10:00 – 1:00

And by Appointment

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**PSCI 4280:** Inter-American Politics. This course analyzes the role of Latin American states in the international political arena. Emphasis upon developing, applying and testing an explanatory theory of international politics through the study of the inter-American system and its history: the regional, institutional and ideological environment, power relations, policies and contemporary problems. (This course fulfills the department's international politics requirement). *Prereq:* For PSCI 4280; junior. (Cross-listed with PSCI-8286.)

Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Disability Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Disability Services (EAB 117, Phone: 554-2872, TTY: 554-3799) or go to the website: [www.unomaha.edu/disability](http://www.unomaha.edu/disability).

### Course requirements:

- (1) **Readings:** We will be reading all or parts of three books and reports (see below), plus various shorter readings, most of which will be posted on the course Blackboard website.

Paul Blustein. *And the Money Kept Rolling In: The World Bank, Wall Street, The IMF and the Bankrupting of Argentina*. (New York: Public Affairs, 2005). (UNO Bookstore).

Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States and the World*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008). (UNO Bookstore).

Gary Bland and Cynthia Arnson, editors. *Democratic Deficits: Addressing Challenges to Sustainability and Consolidation Around the World* (2009) Woodrow Wilson Special Report #21.(Online via Blackboard).

Readings are assigned for each week, and will be discussed and analyzed in class. In some instances (especially with the Smith and Blustein books) the discussion questions will be distributed in advance, to focus reading and **in-class discussion**. Students will be evaluated on how effectively they address and analyze the discussion questions.

(2) **Research Paper:** A **20-page research paper** will be due by 4pm on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>! No exceptions. Each student must choose by October 15<sup>th</sup>, a topic that analyzes a significant and researchable aspect of current inter-American relations. A list of suggested topics will be distributed October 1st; other topics may be chosen as alternatives, with the instructor's approval. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in class on October 15<sup>th</sup>; each student should write on a separate subject, to spread the research resources. Each student will also be required to submit a **research proposal** to the instructor. The research proposal will be due on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

(3) **Oral Presentation:** At the sessions between November 10 and December 10, each student will make a **ten minute presentation** on his/her subject setting forth the key elements of the analysis to be presented in the paper. Presentation dates will be assigned immediately after October 15<sup>th</sup>, and a **written outline and bibliography** for the planned paper will be due for each student on the day of the talk.

(4) **Course grades:** The breakdown for the course grade is as follows:

a. <b>In-class discussion/participation</b>	<b>10 percent</b>
b. <b>Research paper</b>	<b>50 percent</b>
c. <b>Research proposal</b>	<b>25 percent</b>
d. <b>Written outline and bibliography</b>	<b>5 percent</b>
e. <b>Research presentation</b>	<b>10 percent</b>

### **Course Ground Rules**

- Late assignments are not acceptable. They are a burden to me and are unfair to your colleagues who do their work on time. Therefore, I will deduct  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a letter grade for each day an assignment is late. Extensions may be given but only if they are requested well in advance of the deadline, and there is a compelling reason.
- It is not my practice to give incompletes for this course. If there is a compelling rationale for an incomplete - subject to my approval and supported with appropriate documentation - an exception to the “no incompletes” rule may be possible.
- With respect to these first two ground rules, if you have problems in completing your assigned work, please let me know about it sooner than later.
- Plagiarism and copying will not be tolerated. Any student turning in a written assignment which is not your own work will receive a failing grade for that assignment for the course and you may be subject to further university disciplinary action!
- I do not expect that the views and perceptions of U.S. and Latin American relations by me or by all of you to be identical, either now, or at the completion of the course. This course is a place for the free and perhaps heated exchange of ideas. Thus I expect you to challenge viewpoints that differ from your own, but I also expect you to substantiate your arguments from the readings, lectures and discussions. In other words, you will be penalized if you simply agree with my lectures or the readings for no apparent reason other than the fact that I am your professor, or if you insist on merely spouting opinions.
- There are three basic rules of success in this and any class in which I am the instructor. Follow these rules and you more than likely will be happy with the product of your labor. First, show up to class! (on time and ready to

participate) Second, follow the instructions! Pay close attention to what is being said and what is being required of you. Third, turn your work in on time. Rather than schedule school around your life, the successful student is mindful of scheduling life around school. Following these three rules usually equates with the successful completion of assignments. In reality, this is what any prospective employer, partner or suitor wants to know about you. Can you show up? Can you pay attention? And can you finish the job?

**Course Schedule** (‡ - indicates reading available on course blackboard website)

### **Section 1: Conceptual approaches and history**

#### **August 25/27 – Introduction/A History of U.S.-Latin American Relations**

Reading: Smith, pp Ch 1-3 , Walt 62-108, “ The Roots of Resentment” ‡.

#### **September 1/3 - A History of U.S.-Latin American Relations**

Reading: Smith, Ch. 4-5

\*\*Class will not meet on September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Instructor attending APSA meeting in Toronto\*\*

#### **September 8/10 – Ideology and pluralism**

Reading: Smith, Ch. 6.

#### **September 15/17 - Hegemony vs. multilateralism in inter-American relations**

Reading: Smith, Ch. 8-9; Inter-American Democratic Charter ‡; Shifter, “Obama and the OAS” ‡; Levitt, OAS Resolution 1080” ‡; Arceneaux, OAS Responses” ‡.

#### **September 22/24 – The post-9/11 twist**

Reading: Smith 10-12; Shifter and Joyce, “No Longer Washington’s Backyard” ‡; The Economist, “The Battle for Latin America’s Soul” ‡ .

### **Section 2: Politics and Political Economy in Inter-American Relations**

#### **September 29/October 1 – The Pursuit of Democracy in Inter-American Relations**

Reading: Schmitter, “Defects and Deficits in the Quality of Neo-Democracy” in Bland, et al ‡; Dininio, Linkages Between Corruption and Democracy” in Bland, et al ‡.

Lecture: How To Write a Research Proposal

**October 6/8 – Social Deficits, Poverty and Inequality**

Reading: Huber, “The New Left Versus Neoliberalism in Latin America” in Bland, et al †; Larson, “Democratic Progress Or Peril: Indigenous and Popular Mobilization in Bolivia, in Bland, et al †; and Chirinos, Civil Society and Successful Accountability in Peru, in Bland, et al †; Kurtz and Brooks, “Embedding Neoliberal Reform in Latin America” †.

**October 13/15 – Economic Issues 1: Finance and Development**

Reading: Smith, Ch. 7. Hills, “Free Trade in the Americas” †; Blustein, Ch. 1-5.

Assignment: Choose Topics Day

**October 20/22 – Economic Issues 2: Trade and its Political Implications**

\*\*Class will not meet on October 20<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break

Reading: Blustein, Ch. 6-10.

**October 27/29 – Enter The Dragon: The Question of China**

Reading: Gallagher, “China Matters” †; Devlin in Aronson, “What Does China Mean?,” pp. 3-16 †; and Fukuyama and Marwah, “Comparing East Asia and Latin America” †.

**November 3/5 – Course Review**

Lecture: “Making Your Presentation a Winner”

Assignment: Research Proposals Due

**November 10/12 – Research Presentations I (5)**

**November 17/19 – No class meetings - Instructor will be in Cuba (tentatively)**

**November 24/26 – Research Presentations II (5)**

\*\*No class meeting on November 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 1/3 – Research Presentations III (5)**

\*\*No class meeting on December 3 – Instructor will be in California.

**December 8/10 – Research Presentations IV (10)**

Assignment: Research Paper Due, December 10<sup>th</sup>, No Later than 4pm.