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2:30 to 3pm, and by appointment.

SIS 4001/001 B Regional Studies/Latin America

In spite of Latin America's geographic proximity to the United States and longstanding relations between the two regions, many U.S. citizens know little about their neighbors to the south. The purpose of this course is to increase the student's knowledge of this important region by providing them with a comprehensive survey of Latin American political, social and economic development. This survey will include an examination of the historical conditions that shaped Latin American political and economic development, the region's tenuous position within the global economy, its authoritarian tradition, and its conflict-ridden relations with the U.S. We will also examine a few countries in detail.

By the conclusion of this course, you will have increased your understanding of Latin American history and how it shapes contemporary conditions, internal and external forces that shape the region's political and economic development, and several critical issues facing Latin American states and societies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of significant political and economic developments in the region studied.
2. Exhibit an understanding of the historical background in the region under study.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of cultural expressions and social dynamics in the region considered.
4. Exhibit an understanding of the spatial relationships extant in the region studied

TEXTBOOKS

Every Student Purchases:

Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. 2005. *Modern Latin America*, 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Purchase One of the Following Depending on Your Issue Selection:

J. Timmons Roberts and Nikki Demetria Thanos. *Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crisis in Latin America*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

John Ward. *Latin America: Development and Conflict Since 1945*. 2nd edition. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Coletta A. Youngers and Eileen Rosin (editors). *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America: The Impact of U.S. Policy*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2005.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this class will be derived from three examinations of equal weight and a classroom presentation project/reading report. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and essays questions. The classroom presentation project is discussed below.

Classroom Presentation Projects: Every student will select one of three topics: economic development, drugs trafficking, or the environmental issues. Based on your issue selection you will be assigned a textbook and be required to write reading reports on the book pertaining to the issue. In advance of the week that we will cover the given issue each student who selected that issue will be given the responsibility of reporting on one or more chapters from the assigned text. That student will be responsible for writing a reading report consisting of three parts: (1) a thesis statement (of no more than 3-4 sentences), stating what the main point of the reading was; (2) a list of the five most important points or arguments the author makes in the reading; and (3) any criticisms the student might have of the author's arguments. Students will present their reading reports to the class for the purpose of guiding and stimulating classroom discussion. The report should not be more than ten pages in length. Reports will be turned in at the end of the class for grading.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to all scheduled classes is mandatory

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK ONE

Jan 14-18

Why Study Latin America? The Colonial Foundations

Readings

Skidmore 1-41.

Film B Americas -- Mirrors of the Heart: Race and Identity

Recommended Movie: The Mission (1986).

WEEK TWO

Jan 21-25

Modern Latin America The Context of Latin American Politics

Readings

Skidmore 42-68

Film B Americas -- Builders of Images: Latin America Cultural Identity

WEEK THREE

Jan 28 – Feb1

Wrap up review and first exam Jan 31

WEEK FOUR

Feb 4-8

Argentina: Prosperity, Deadlock, Change, and Collapse

Readings

Skidmore 69-108

Film B Americas -- The Garden of Forking Paths: Dilemmas of National Development

WEEK FIVE

Feb 11-15

Chile: Socialism, Repression, and Democracy

Readings

Skidmore 109-138

Film Americas -- In Women=s Hands: The Changing Roles of Women

WEEK SIX

Feb 18-22

Peru: Soldiers, Oligarchs, and Indians

Readings

Skidmore 181-220

Exam 2 Feb 26

WEEK SEVEN

Feb 25-29

Mexico: The Taming of the Revolution

Readings

Skidmore 254-295

Film: Americas -- Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization

WEEK EIGHT

March 10-14

Cuba: Late Colony, First Socialist State

Readings

Skidmore 296-327

Film Castro

WEEK NINE

March 17-21

The Dominican Republic: Unfinished Experiment

Readings

Skidmore 341-345

WEEK TEN
March 24-28

Latin America, the United States, and the World

Readings
Skidmore 396-439

Exam 3 – March 27

WEEK ELEVEN and TWELVE
March 31- April 11

Latin American Economic Development

WEEK THIRTEEN and FOURTEEN
April 14-25

The War on Drugs in Latin America

WEEK FIFTEEN
April 28-May1

Globalization and Environmental Crisis in Latin America.