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Applicant for the Fulbright Scholar Program

The International Relations of the Americas

A graduate course proposed for the Department of American Studies at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

Course Description

This course explores the relations of the countries of the Americas with one another and the world. This course will explore the region’s changing position in the contemporary world arena and how the countries of the region (or groups of countries) have responded to shifting balances of global power. We will examine the international relations of the Americas from historical, contemporary, and theoretical perspectives. This course also studies the international relations of the region in the context of changing U.S. hegemony.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Identify the historical development and the current context of the international relations of the Americas.

2. Discuss specific topics in the international relations of the Americas.


Pre-Requisites for this Course: Language skills: This course requires English language academic communication skills (reading, writing, and speaking) that are advanced. As a former Peace Corps Volunteer who served in the Dominican Republic, your professor understands the challenge of communicating at an advanced level in a language that is not your first. As I do for my U.S. students to help them build their vocabulary, I will often use multiple words that have similar meanings. Please feel free to ask me questions if you do not understand a word. Also remember that your professor is trying to learn the Czech language and I will need your help.

Course Structure: This course is a discussion course with some formal lectures by the professor. The goal is to improve our understanding of the international relations of the Americas through active discussion among the students and between the students and the instructor. For us to have engaging discussions, you must do all your assigned readings before you come to class. You will be required to read no more than an average of 50
pages per week. Part of your final grade will be based on your attendance and participation in class. For you to participate in the class you must do your readings and engage the literature. **Attendance and participation is mandatory for this class.**

**Evaluation**

Students’ final grade will be based on the following.

Attendance and Participation = 25%

Mid-Term = 15%

Final Exam = 30%

Book Review = 30%

The exams will be short answer/short essay questions drawn from the readings and the classroom lectures. The mid-term exam will cover the material in the first half of the class. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all the material of the course.

You will also be required to write a review on:


This book is available in paperback.

In addition to publishing articles on original research, scholarly journals like *Perspectives on Politics* and the *International Studies Review* publish essays on recent scholarly book publications. Book reviews offer an important service to the scholarly community as there is far more published every year than any one person can read. Your reviews should be accurate in their descriptions of the book and creative and interesting to read. They should contain 5 to 8 double-spaced pages.

When you write your review you should:

1. Place the book within the literature or literatures to which it contributes. The author may or may not expressly indicate the book’s contribution.

2. Describe the basic thesis, core concerns, theoretical framework, and/or historical focus. This should include major findings, conclusions and insights, as well as methodologies or strategies used to arrive at these conclusions.

3. Evaluate the book’s conceptual, methodological, or substantive contribution. You should assess the main ideas and methodologies. Discuss how well the author does what
he/she sets out to do. Assess the strengths and weakness of the work. You should also suggest directions for further research.

4. Identify who might profit from reading the book. Is it primarily for specialists in a particular sub-field or might other scholars benefit from it? Is the book suitable for a general audience? Does it cover the general material in a readable way?

5. Evaluate the book’s style. How effectively is the material organized and written?

Readings:

We will be reading selections from the following list of books and articles. The books or the relevant parts and the articles will be placed on reserve in the library for you to make copies. In some cases they may be available in electronic form.


**Schedule**

The following schedule is subject to change. Active class attendance will avoid any uncertainties.

**Week 1 -- Introduction to U.S.-Latin American Relations**

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Week 2 – Political Theory and Levels of Analysis**

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Week 3 – U.S. Imperialism and the coming World War**

**Required**

Recommended


**Week 4 – The Cold War: Friends and Enemies**

*Required*


*Recommended*


**Week 5 – The Washington Consensus and the Geoeconomic Game**

*Required*


*Recommended*


**Week 6 – Extra Hemispheric Actors: European Union**

*Midterm Exam*

*Required*


Week 7 – **Extra Hemispheric Actors: China**

**Required**


Adrian H. Hearn “China’s Social Engagement Programs in Latin America” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 239–250, 2013. (11 pages)

**Recommended**


Week 8 – **Regional Integration**

**Required**


**Recommended**

Week 9 – The “Pink Tide” and a Different Vision of Inter-American Relations

Required


Week 10 – Issues: Immigration

Required


Recommended


Week 11 – Issues: Drugs


Recommended

Week 12 – Discussion of *Brazil, The United States, and The South American Subsystem*

**Final Exam**