

Thomas J. Nisley, PhD

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.
3. Write a scholarly book review on a current book on Inter-American affairs.

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:

Teixeira, Carlos Gustavo Poggio. 2012. *Brazil, The United States and the South American Subsystem: Regional Politics and the Absent Empire*. New York: Lexington Books.

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.

Chodor, Tom and Anthea McCarthy-Jones. 2013. "Post-Liberal Regionalism in Latin America and the Influence of Hugo Chávez" *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 211–223.

Gardini, Gian Luca and Peter Lambert (editors) 2011. *Latin American Foreign Policies: Between Ideology and Pragmatism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hearn, Adrian H. 2013. "China's Social Engagement Programs in Latin America" *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 239–250.

Hearn, Adrian H. and José Luis León-Manríquez (editors) 2011. *China Engages Latin America: Tracing the Trajectory*. London: Lynne Rienner.

Kenney, Michael. 2007. *From Pablo to Osama: Trafficking and Terrorist Networks, Government Bureaucracies, and Competitive Adaptation*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

Icaza, Rosalaba, 2010. "Global Europe, Guilty! Contesting EU neoliberal governance for Latin America and the Caribbean" *Third World Quarterly*. Vol. 31 No.1, 123–139.

Malamuda, Andrés and Clarissa Drib. 2013. "Spillover Effects and Supranational Parliaments: The Case of Mercosur" *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 224–238.

Smith, Peter H. 2013. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Williams, Mark Eric. 2012. *Understanding U.S.-Latin American Relations: Theory and History*. New York: Routledge.

Youngs, Richard. 2002. "The European Union and Democracy in Latin America" *Latin America Politics and Society* Vol. 44 No. 3, 111-139.

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

"International Politics and U.S.-Latin American Relations" (chapter 1) in Mark Eric Williams *Understanding U.S.-Latin American Relations: Theory and History*. New York: Routledge, 2012. (22 pages)

Recommended

Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith and James Green. *Modern Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Week 2 – Political Theory and Levels of Analysis

Required

"U.S.-Latin American Relations and Political Theory" (chapter 2) and "Foreign Policy Fundamentals: International Systems and levels of Analysis" (chapter 3) in Mark Eric Williams *Understanding U.S.-Latin American Relations: Theory and History*. New York: Routledge, 2012. (50 pages)

Recommended

Alexander Wendt. "Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics" *International Organization*. Vol. 46, No. 2, 393-425, 1992.

Kenneth Waltz. *Man, the State, and War*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959.

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

Required

"Latin America: Response to Imperialism" (chapter 3) and "Mr Roosevelt's Neighborhood" (chapter 4) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. (49 pages)

Recommended

Lars Schoultz. *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Week 4 – The Cold War: Friends and Enemies

Required

“Making Friends” (chapter 6) and “Crushing Enemies” (chapter 7) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013 (42 pages).

Recommended

Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*. Cambridge, MA: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 1999.

Week 5 – The Washington Consensus and the Geoeconomic Game

Required

“The 1990s: Hegemony and Geoeconomics” (chapter 9) and “Latin America: Playing the Geoeconomic Game” (chapter 10) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013 (40 pages).

Recommended

José M. Salazar-Xirinaches and Maryse Robert (editors) *Toward Free Trade in the Americas* Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2001.

Week 6 – Extra Hemispheric Actors: European Union

Midterm Exam

Required

Rosalaba Icaza “Global Europe, Guilty! Contesting EU neoliberal governance for Latin America and the Caribbean” *Third World Quarterly*. Vol. 31, No.1, 123-139, 2010. (16 pages).

Richard Youngs “The European Union and Democracy in Latin America” *Latin America Politics and Society*. Vol. 44, No. 3, 111-139, 2002. (28 pages)

Week 7 – Extra Hemispheric Actors: China

Required

Ariel C. Armony “The China-Latin America Relationship: Convergences and Divergences” (23-50) in Adrian H Hearn and José Luis León-Manríquez (editors) 2011. *China Engages Latin America: Tracing the Trajectory*. London: Lynne Rienner. (27 pages).

Jiange Shixue “Ten Key Question” (51-65) in Adrian H Hearn and José Luis León-Manríquez (editors) 2011. *China Engages Latin America: Tracing the Trajectory*. London: Lynne Rienner. (14 pages).

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

R. Evan Ellis, *China and Latin America: The Whats and Wherefores*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2009.

Kevin P. Gallagher and Roberto Porzecanski. *The Dragon in the Room: China and the Future of Latin American Industrialization*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010.

Week 8 – Regional Integration

Required

Gian Luca Gardini “Unity and Diversity in Latin America Visions of Regional Integration” (235- 254) in *Latin American Foreign Policies: Between Ideology and Pragmatism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. (19 pages).

Andrés Malamuda and Clarissa Drib “Spillover Effects and Supranational Parliaments: The Case of Mercosur” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 224–238, 2013. (14 pages).

Recommended

Olivier Dabéne, *The Politics of Regional Integration in Latin America: Theoretical and Comparative Explorations*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009

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

Required

“Latin America: Seizing Opportunities” (chapter 12) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. (21 pages)

Tom Chodor and Anthea McCarthy-Jones “Post-Liberal Regionalism in Latin America and the Influence of Hugo Chávez” *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research* Vol. 19, No. 2, 211–223, 2013. (12 pages)

Week 10 – Issues: Immigration

Required

“Dilemmas of Immigration” (chapter 13) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. (16 pages).

Ana Covarrubias “Mexico’s Foreign Policy Under the Partido Acción Nacional: Promoting Democracy, Human Rights, and Interests” (213-233) in *Latin American Foreign Policies: Between Ideology and Pragmatism*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. (20 pages)

Recommended

David Khoudour-Castéras “Unexpected Effects of the Washington Consensus: Trade Liberalization and Migration Flows in Latin America” *International Trade Journal*. Vol. 24, No. 4, 440-476, 2010.

Week 11 – Issues: Drugs

“Drug Trafficking, Drug Wars” (chapter 14) in Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States and the World, 4th edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. (16 pages)

“The Architecture of Drug Trafficking” (chapter 1) in Michael Kenney *From Pablo to Osama: Trafficking and Terrorist Networks, Government Bureaucracies, and Competitive Adaptation*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007. (23 pages)

Recommended

Ted Galen Carpenter. 2003. *Bad Neighbor Policy: Washington's Futile War on Drugs in Latin America*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

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

Final Exam