This course offers an analytical survey of U.S.-Latin American relations. After successful completion of this course, you should have a strong sense about how to approach any empirical problem on U.S.-Latin American relations from multiple angles, as well as a good notion of where relations between the United States and Latin American countries have been and where they are going. This course historical perspective extends from the 1900s to the present, with special attention to the shape and implications of the post-9/11 international environment. Coverage will focus on processes of war and peace, drug trafficking, poverty, the promotion of democracy in the Americas, undocumented migration, and economic integration (including NAFTA). We will also study the different practices of foreign policymaking toward the United States of countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela, an often-overlooked approach to the study of inter-American relations.

Week 1: Course Structure and Themes


Video: “Missing.”

Week 2: What Images Do We Have of “Latin America,” and Why?


Pike, Fredrick, The United States and Latin America: Myths and Stereotypes of Civilization and Culture (University of Texas Press, 1992), Preface.


Video: “Gringo in Mañanaaland”

Week 3: Approaches to Explaining U.S.-Latin American Relations


Desch, Michael, When the Third World Matters: Latin America and United States Grand Strategy (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993), pp. 1-12, 137-142, 146-149.


Krasner, Stephen, “Are Bureaucracies Important?” Foreign Policy No. 7 (Summer 1972): 159-179.


Week 4: Looking Back: U.S.-Latin American Relations before the Cold War

Oxford English Dictionary, “Empire.”


Week 5: The Cold War in the Americas and Latin America as the Battleground


Video: “School of Assassins”

Week 6: What Happened?! The Great Transformation in U.S.-Latin American Relations


Choose only 2 countries from the following options:


Dominguez, Jorge I., and Rafael Fernández de Castro *The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict* (Routledge, 2001), pp. 1-34.

Mares, David R., and Francisco Rojas Aravena, *The United States and Chile: Coming in From the Cold* (Routledge, 2001), pp. 3-47.


Hirst, Mônica, *The United States and Brazil* (Routledge, 2005), pp. 1-11.

**Week 7: War and Peace**


**Week 8: Drug Trafficking**


McClintock, Cynthia, and Fabián Vallas, *The United States and Peru: Cooperation at a Cost* (Routledge, 2003), pp. 111-130


**Week 9: Fighting Poverty in Latin America**


**Week 10: Promoting Democracy in the Americas**


**Week 11: The Politics of International Migration**


Video: “The Latin American and Caribbean Presence in the U.S.”

**Week 12: The Politics of Trade**


**Week 13: Country Cases**

Everybody should read:


And, then, choose two of the following five countries, be ready to discuss one in full, and read at least one article or one chapter from the other:
Argentina:


Brazil:


Plus, articles by Sotomayor Velázquez and Malamud under “Argentina” above.

Chile:


Cuba:


**Mexico:**


**Venezuela:**
