

Instructor: David M. Rodriguez  
Office: 5265 Humanities  
Phone: (608) 890-3303  
Email: dmrodriguez@wisc.edu  
Office Hours: Monday 3-5pm

Semester: Spring 2013  
Lectures: M, W, F  
Time: 12:05-12:55pm  
Location: 120 Ingraham

---

## **U.S.-Latin American Relations since 1945**

“When you say ‘America’ you refer to the territory stretching between the icecaps of the two poles.”

- Diego Rivera

“I regard Latin America as the most critical area in the world today.”

- President John F. Kennedy

“What the United States does best is to understand itself. What it does worst is understand others.”

- Carols Fuentes

“I believe that Latin America is more important to the prosperity and security of the United States than ever before.”

- President Barack Obama

### **Course Overview and Objective**

This history course explores the complex, but dynamic relationship between the United States and Latin America since 1945. No other area of the world has had a significant impact on the cultural and political fabric of the United States as Latin America. And no other area of the world has had a significant impact on the cultural and political fabric of Latin America as the United States. Although tied more than ever through migration, trade, and popular culture, the relationship between the United States and Latin America is still characterized by ambivalence and misunderstanding. For example, Latin Americans criticize the United States for ignoring the region but lambaste it for intervening in their internal affairs. The United States claims to treat the countries of Latin America as equal partners but eschews their independent foreign policy positions.

This course is organized around a series of three interrelated questions: 1) What accounts for the complex relationship between the United States and Latin America?; 2) Who makes and shapes U.S. foreign policy?; 3) How do the foreign policies of the United States play out at the local level? By the end of the semester you should be able to address these broad questions with ease. I hope this course can provide you with a deep appreciation for the various ways people around the world live and think (this is, after all, what history is about), as well as a skill set appropriate for careers in business, diplomacy, journalism, law, and teaching. Students have the added benefit of taking this course with an experienced instructor who has navigated the worlds of academia and foreign policy.

## **Course Mechanics and Readings**

This is a lecture course that meets three times a week for fifty minutes. Students, for the sake of intellectual enlightenment, should attend every lecture and complete all of the assigned readings by the stated due date. Please come to class on time and do not leave early. Out of respect for the instructor and students around you, please do not talk, sleep, eat, do crossword puzzles, play video games, or read the newspaper. Computers may only be used to take notes.

The reading load for the course fluctuates weekly. Please read everything closely and carefully. In addition to the textbooks that you are required to purchase at the University Bookstore, you will also be reading online primary documents (speeches, policy documents, etc.) that capture the historical flavor of the time period we are studying. Where scholarly monographs cannot provide justice to the topic at hand, I have selected articles written by prominent foreign policy practitioners.

---

## **Required Readings**

- Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City* (New York: Verso, 2000).
  - Enrique Krauze, *Redeemers: Ideas and Power in Latin America* (New York: Harper, 2011).
  - Alan McPherson, *Yankee No! Anti-Americanism in U.S.-Latin American Relations* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006).
  - Henry Raymont, *Troubled Neighbors: The Story of U.S.-Latin American Relations from FDR to the Present* (Cambridge, MA: Westview, 2005).
- 

## **Assignments and Grading**

Your grade for the course will be based on the following: two in-class quizzes, a take-home midterm, and a take-home final exam. Your in-class quizzes will be a combination of fill-in-the-blank, mix-and-match, and multiple choice. For your take-home midterm exam you will be asked to write two 4-5 page essays. For your take-home final exam you will be asked to write two 5-6 page essays. Prior to each assignment I will hand out a study guide with a list of key terms and potential essay questions. Only the midterm and final exams are cumulative.

Each in-class quiz is worth 15% of the grade, the take-home midterm 30%, and the take-home final 40%. Unless you are on your deathbed, and even this will require documentation, no make-up exams or grades of incomplete will be given.

**Warning:** Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's words, ideas, and written work as your own. Anyone found guilty of plagiarizing or cheating will receive an automatic "F" in the course. No exceptions. If you are unclear about an assignment, come see me and I'll be more than happy to help you.

## Schedule of Important Dates and Assignments

- February 13: In-class quiz #1
- March 11: Take-home midterm exam passed out after lecture
- March 15: Take-home midterm exam due at start of lecture
- April 24: In-class quiz #2
- May 10: Take-home final exam passed out after lecture
- May 15: Take-home final exam due

## Miscellaneous

Why study history? For anyone interested in current affairs the study of history is very relevant. Contrary to popular perception historians are not concerned exclusively with the 3 “D’s”: dates, details, and the deceased. We are concerned, rather, with how the society we live in came to be. The study of history is important if we want to understand our place in the world or comprehend the struggles of those who came before us. You may find that the discipline provides you with a sense of meaning, purpose, and empowerment.



## Schedule of Classes

### Week 1:

#### **Theoretical Foundations of U.S.-Latin American Relations**

January 23                      Introduction

January 25                      The Setting of U.S. Foreign Policy

Readings:

Krauze, Preface & Chapter 1  
Raymont Prologue & Chapter 1 (Introduction)

### Week 2:

#### **(Continued) Theoretical Foundations**

January 28                      The North American Mind

January 30                      The Latin American Mind

February 1                      The Historian's Mind

Readings:

Krauze, Chapters 2-3  
Raymont, Chapters 2-3

### Week 3:

#### **The Lay of the Land**

February 4                      From World War...

February 6                      ...to Cold War

February 8                      U.S. Strategic Interests in Latin America

Readings:

Krauze, Chapter 4  
McPherson, Introduction  
Raymont, Chapter 4  
Harry Truman, "Address before the Governing Board of the Pan American Union," April 15, 1946.

### Week 4:

#### **The Return of Interventionism**

February 11                      The Antidictatorial Struggle in the Caribbean

February 13                      Eisenhower's Latin American Policy

February 15                      The American Coup in Guatemala

Readings:

Krauze, Chapter 6  
McPherson, Chapter 1  
Raymont, Chapter 5  
"Statement of Policy by the National Security Council on United States Objectives with Respect to Latin America" (NSC 144/1), March 18, 1953.

**Week 5:**

**Blowbacks**

February 18                      When Goodwill Trips Go Bad

February 20                      The Cuban Revolution: Part I

February 22                      The Cuban Revolution: Part II

Readings:

Krauze, Chapter 7

McPherson, Chapter 2

Fidel Castro, "When the People Rule," January 21, 1959.

**Week 6:**

**The Most Dangerous Area in the World**

February 25                      Kennedy's Latin American Policy

February 27                      The Puerto Rican Moment

March 1                              Alliance for Progress: An International History

Readings:

Krauze, Chapter 8

McPherson, Chapter 3

Raymont, Chapter 6

John F. Kennedy, "Address at a White House Reception for Members of Congress and the Diplomatic Corps of Latin America," March 13, 1961.

**Week 7:**

**The Ideological Ferment of the 1960s**

March 4                              Johnson's Latin American Policy

March 6                              Dependency Theory

March 8                              Liberation Theology

Readings:

McPherson, Chapter 4

Raymont, Chapter 7

Telephone Conversation between President Johnson and Senator Mansfield on the Situation in the Dominican Republic, April 30, 1965.

**Week 8:**

**REVIEW**

March 11                              Catch Up

March 13                              Catch Up  
Take-home Midterm Passed Out

March 15                              Take-home Midterm Due

Readings:

Krauze, Chapter 9

McPherson, Epilogue

**Week 9:**

**Dirty Wars**

March 18 Nixon's Latin American Policy

March 20 The "Other" 9/11

March 22 The ABC Juntas

Readings:

Raymont, Chapter 8

Memorandum from the National Security Advisor (Kissinger) to President Nixon on the Situation in Chile, November 5, 1970.

Salvador Allende, Address to the United Nations General Assembly, December 4, 1972.

**Week 10:**

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 11:**

**The Return of the Free Market**

April 1 The "Chicago Boys"

April 3 Film: *Sin Nombre*

April 5 Film: *Sin Nombre*

Readings:

Davis, Chapters 1-3

Raymont, Chapter 9

**Week 12:**

**"There Is No Time to Lose": The United States and Central America**

April 8 Carter's Latin American Policy

April 10 The Nicaraguan Revolution: Part I

April 12 The Nicaraguan Revolution: Part II

Readings:

Davis, Chapters 4-6

Krauze, Chapter 10

Raymont, Chapter 10

**Week 13:**

**(Continued) The United States and Central America**

April 15 Reagan's Latin American Policy

April 17 Democracy and Terror: El Salvador

April 19 Democracy and Terror: Guatemala

Readings:

Davis, Chapters 7-9

Raymont, Chapters 11-12

Oscar Romero, "The Last Sermon," March 23, 1980.

Ronald Reagan, Address to the Congress on Central America, April 27, 1983.

**Week 14:**

**The End of History**

April 22 The North American Idea: The Politics of Free Trade

April 24 U.S. Foreign Policy during the Clinton Years

April 26 Border Politics and Migration

Readings:

Davis, Chapters 10-13

Krauze, Chapter 11

Raymont, Chapters 13-14

**Week 15:**

**The Populist Revival in Latin America**

April 29 The Bush Years

May 1 Radical Populism and the Emergence of the Center-Left

May 3 Brazil and the World

Readings:

Davis, Chapters 14-17

Krauze, Chapter 12 & Epilogue

Hal Brands, "Dealing with Political Ferment in Latin America: The Populist Revival, the Emergence of the Center, and Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy," (Strategic Studies Institute), September 2009.

[Jorge Castañeda, "Latin America's Left Turn," \*Foreign Affairs\*, May/June 2006.](#)

**Week 16:**

**Morning Again in Latin America**

May 6 Obama's Latin American Policy

May 8 The Diplomatic Challenge: China and Iran in Latin America

May 10 Final Remarks: An Ode to U.S. Policymakers

Readings:

Inter-American Dialogue Policy Report, "Remaking the Relationship: The United States and Latin America," April 2012.

Peter Hakim, "The Incredibly Shrinking Vision: US Policy in Latin America," *Política Exterior*, July 5, 2012.

Barack Obama, "Remarks by the President at the Summit of the Americas," April 17, 2009.