

Course Code & No. - Section: INTL 483 - Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Regional Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean
Term & Year: Spring / 2014
Course Ref. No. (CRN): 10289

Instructor: M.A. Anibal Cordoba Sosa
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Office: TCES 2nd Floor
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:45 - 4:45 p.m., and by appointment

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Location:

Prerequisites:
Corequisites:

Course Description

The course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the key features in relation to the history, the culture, the economics and the politics of Latin America, drawing upon the historical perspective to build a comprehensive approach to the region. Divergent country trajectories (and similarities) within Latin America regarding economic development and political models will be analyzed, as well as the historical, cultural and political trends that shaped a development path which differs from that of North America. Relationships between the US and Latin American countries will also be reviewed, from both, a historical and a current affairs perspective. Finally, an introduction for today's main political and economic trends will be made, covering also some of the most relevant challenges and opportunities facing the region in the coming years.

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have incorporated a set of concepts and analytical tools that will allow an accurate and in depth understanding of the processes that have shaped – and are currently shaping - the region's political and economic situation, being therefore able to perform a comprehensive analysis on the region's most relevant issues and its implications for US interests and policy initiatives.

Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize lectures, small groups, and individual work in class using laptop computers, inquiry learning, discussion and case studies. Documentary films will also be projected.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. **Weekly assigned reading.** Students will have to complete the assigned reading for each Tuesday's class. Once in class, professor will give students a series of questions that they will have to work in groups and then call upon students to share the elaborated answers with the rest of the class.
20%
 2. **Current Events Article.** Each student will be responsible for bringing in on Thursday's class current events articles on the issues covered by the course. The class will be dedicated to your presentation on the articles. You could choose a written article (newspaper, magazine) or a video or TV show excerpt. These should spark thought and discussion; therefore, each student will give a five minute presentation on her/his article/topic. If it's a paper article, the student may present it
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by just talking about it and then send it to the rest of the class by email. If it's a video, the student may do the presentation before or after the video is projected and then send it by email to the rest of the class. Presentations will follow alphabetical order and up to 5 will be done each Thursday. Grading will be based on relevance of the article, creativity of the presentation, ability to facilitate discussion and professional dress/appearance.

10%

3. **Mid-Term exam.** Written in-class, closed-book, examination consisting of short essay questions on the readings assigned.

15%

4. **Research topic report.** Students will be required to submit a short written research paper on a relevant topic (Specifications will be given in class).

20%

5. **Leadership paper.** Each student will have to read about life and views on leadership of president Jose Mugica, of Uruguay, and former president Hugo Chavez, of Venezuela, and then write a paper comparing/contrasting and analyzing both leaders and the impact they had on their respective country. (Reading material will be provided).

20%

6. **Final Exam.** Written in-class, closed-book, examination consisting of short essay questions on the readings assigned.

15%

Grades will be assigned in the traditional manner:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 59%	F

Texts and readings

Required books:

- Chasteen, John Charles (2011), "Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America", Third Edition (ISBN: 978-0-393-91154-1)
- LaRosa, Michael J. and Mora, Frank O. (2006), "Neighborly Adversaries: Readings in U.S.-Latin American Relations" (ISBN-10: 0742540472)
- Edwards, Sebastian (2010), "Left Behind. Latin America and the False Promise of Populism" (ISBN-13: 978-0-226-00466-2)
- Dominguez, Jorge and Shifter, Michael Ed (2010), "Constructing democratic governance in Latin America", Fourth Edition (ISBN: 978-1-4214-0979-5)

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Full attendance is expected and class participation and regular homework submissions are an important component of a student's grade.

Class Requirements

Professional behavior and appropriate dress is expected. Cell phones must be turned off before entering class. Message texting is not allowed.

Laptops may be used to update notes. However, if students abuse this privilege (i.e. instant messaging, e-mailing, playing games), it will be revoked and notes will have to be taken in a conventional manner.

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism**The Honor Code**

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability

Class Schedule

This is a tentative schedule. It is your responsibility to regularly check for updated assignments.

Date	Topic	Assignment/Reading due
21-Jan	Review of Syllabus. Course organization.	
23-Jan	Geographies of Latin America. Population. Relative situation of the region in the global map.	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 3)
27-Jan	Historic roots of Latin America. The spanish colonial rule and the independence process	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 1)
29-Jan		Current events article presentations
4-Feb	Formation of the Nation State and consolidation of the liberal project	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 6)
6-Feb		Current events article presentations
11-Feb	Crisis and disruption: nationalism and populism	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 8)
13-Feb		Current events article presentations

18-Feb	The US and Latin America I: the "discovery" of the region	La Rosa, Michael and Mora, Frank (Part III)
20-Feb		Current events article presentations
25-Feb	The US and Latin America II: interests, conflicts and tensions	La Rosa, Michael and Mora, Frank (Part V)
27-Feb		Current events article presentations
4-Mar	Industrialization and the quest for development	Edwards, Sebastian (chapter 2)
6-Mar		Film/documentary projection
11-Mar	Industrialization and the quest for development:	Edwards, Sebastian (chapter 3)
13-Mar	Mid-Term exam	
18-Mar	Spring Break	
20-Mar	Spring Break	
25-Mar	The Cold War: Latin America in the crossfire	La Rosa, Michael and Mora, Frank (chapter 13)
27-Mar		Current events article presentations
1-Apr	Revolution, violence and social change	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 9)
3-Apr		Current events article presentations
8-Apr	Crisis and disruption: the neoliberal consensus?	Chasteen, John Charles (chapter 11)
10-Apr		Current events article presentations
15-Apr	Prosperity, inequality and weak institutions: new opportunities, new challenges	Edwards, Sebastian (chapter 1)
17-Apr		Film/documentary projection
22-Apr	Prosperity, inequality and weak institutions: new opportunities, new challenges	Dominguez, Jorge and Shifter, Michael (chapter 4)
24-Apr		Current events article presentations

29-Apr	The elusive quest: when governance matters the most	Dominguez, Jorge and Shifter, Michael (chapter 1)
1-May		Current events article presentations
6-May	Final review	
8-May	Final review	
10-May (18.30-21.30)	Final exam	