

International Relations of Latin America

Political Science 4280/8286
Latino/Latin American Studies 4280/8286
International Studies 4140-005
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Spring 2022

Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:15 am
Arts and Sciences Hall 378

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Student Drop-in Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays after class, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

- Tuesdays in Arts and Sciences Hall 275
- Thursdays on the 2nd floor of UNO's Criss Library: Don't want to visit a professor's cramped, stuffy office? On Thursdays, come see Dr. Kyle at the library where there is space to work!

Schedule via MavTrack or drop in: <https://www.unomaha.edu/my/advising-system-mavtrack.php>

Course Description

As the global political environment trends toward multi-polarity, re-alignment of state relationships, and increasing importance of non-state actors, what does this mean for the future of Latin America in the world? This course provides a theoretical and empirical basis for understanding international relations of Latin America. The course is organized around four broad themes: War, Diplomacy, Money, and Migration. Each section places the topic in its historical context in the region in order to engage with the contemporary consequences of long-standing political and economic patterns as well as the potential for short-term and long-term change in the international relations of Latin America.

Prerequisites

This is an upper-level Political Science course. PSCI 2500 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) or junior standing or permission of instructor is required. Graduate: PSCI 2500 or equivalent is recommended.

Course Materials

Smith, Peter H and Ana Covarrubias. 2021. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States, and the World*. New York: Oxford University Press, fifth edition.

Blustein, Paul. 2005. *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): The World Bank, Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina*. New York: PublicAffairs.

The New York Times

- See information about the “Basic Digital Access” subscription [here](#). Click on or visit nytimes.com/subscription to purchase online access to the paper for the equivalent of \$1/week (see billing details on the site).
- Or, for free access, use the [NYT.com Academic Pass](#). This will require you to enter/confirm your UNO email address when you want to access the paper, so this form of access is a little more cumbersome than purchasing a subscription, but it has the benefit of being free of charge.

Individual class readings are available on the Canvas course site in the Modules for their respective classes.

Evaluation: Your course grade will be based on the following:

Attendance and Daily Participation: 10%

In-class Research Activities: 25%

Quizzes: 25%

Archival Research Project: 40%

Attendance and Daily Participation (10%)

First and foremost, I want you here! The easiest way to do well in this course is to be in class every day. Come to class prepared to ask and answer questions, clarify readings, discuss course material, participate in activities, and share your thoughts and ideas. The classroom offers you a forum to engage with your peers and to learn from each other. After pandemic-induced online and Zoom-based teaching, I am happy to be back in a real-life classroom with all of you, and I want us to make the most of it! I will record attendance using Roll Call on the Canvas course site, but note that the Attendance & Participation Grade is a different, aggregate score, which includes both *attendance and participation*: Not attending class will earn you 0% for the day; Attending class will earn you 75% for the day; Attending *and successfully participating* in the day’s activities will earn you up to 100% for the day. Being late to class will result in points deductions.

During the semester, keep up to date with current events, especially in our countries of focus, by reading high-quality journalism such as [The New York Times](#) (note that access to NYT online is a required material for the course). Comparative Politics is the study of domestic politics around the world, which requires knowing what is happening in the world. We will often cover current events in class.

A few specific thoughts about success in our class:

- Take notes in class. Read your notes as soon as possible after each class. The sooner you read your notes after class, the more of the material you will retain.
- Take notes when you read so that you will better retain the information in the readings and be prepared to discuss it.

- Treat everyone in the class with patience and common courtesy. When you speak, remember that you are in dialogue with the entire class. Speak to and listen to all of your classmates. Be curious and ask questions.
- You are responsible for your own learning and accountable for your own work—you are ultimately in charge of your own educational experience!

In-class Research Activities (25%)

One of the major in-class assignments will be interactive research workshops in which you will learn about specific resources, how to use them, and apply your knowledge by answering questions or writing brief syntheses of the research materials. Further details will be provided in class.

Quizzes (25%)

There will be periodic short quizzes to test recollection and comprehension of key points from lectures and readings. Material and dates for quizzes will be announced as they approach.

Archival Research Project (40%)

The major project in this course will be to work with the [Lourdes Gouveia Papers](#) at the UNO Criss Library's [Archives and Special Collections](#). Dr. Gouveia is a former UNO Professor of Sociology and the founding director of the UNO Office of Latino/Latin American Studies. The goal of assignment is to learn how to use library archives. The project will begin with archival instruction from Professor Claire Du Laney (cdulaney@unomaha.edu) (**Feb. 8**). The following class period (**Feb. 10**) will be an archival work session to summarize, synthesize, and generate research question(s) from documents in the archive. Next, you will present your work at the UNO Research and Creative Activity Fair (RCAF) on **Friday, March 4**. [You will have to register for the fair by February 4, so we will do this together in the second week of class]. The final step of the project will be to write a brief (800-1000 words) research note (**Due April 5**). Further details will be provided in class.

UNO Criss Library

Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library (<https://www.unomaha.edu/criss-library/index.php>) serves as the primary source of academic information for the university community through its collections, academic and reference services, innovative and modern technology, exhibit and event programming and modern physical facilities. [Subject specialist librarians](#) have in-depth knowledge of researching within specific disciplines and can give you guidance specifically for your area of study. As the Subject Librarian for Political Science, Dr. Omer Farooq (ofarooq@unomaha.edu) maintains the Political Science Research Guide (https://libguides.unomaha.edu/political_science), a helpful compilation of political science sources, databases, and references. You can schedule a research appointment with Dr. Farooq through the Research Guide page.

UNO Writing Center

The UNO Writing Center offers free one-on-one consultations with trained consultants to all students, faculty, and staff. Their goal is to help writers improve their writing skills and confidence in all types of writing, in all subject areas, and at all stages of the writing process. For more information about their services and to schedule an appointment, visit their website at www.unomaha.edu/writingcenter.

Academic Integrity

You must always maintain academic integrity. At a minimum, plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of zero on the assignment and may result in further academic consequences. For more information on University of Nebraska Omaha policies on academic integrity, please see:

<https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/student-conduct-and-community-standards/policies/academic-integrity.php> and <http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/student-rights-responsibilities.php>.

Global Diversity Student Learning Outcomes

This course is part of the UNO Global Diversity General Education Curriculum. In line with UNO priorities, this course has the following student learning outcomes. After completing the course, successful students shall be able to do the following:

- recognize the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political circumstances that produce different social and cultural systems;
- demonstrate specific knowledge of the cultural, historical, social, economic, and/or political aspects of one or more countries or nations other than the United States;
- explain the interrelations among global economic, political, environmental and/or social systems; and
- explain ways in which identity is developed and how it is transmitted within and by members of the group or groups.

Accessibility Services Center

Accommodations are provided for students who are registered with the Accessibility Services Center (ASC) and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact ASC (Location: 104 H&K, Phone: 402-554-2872, Email: unoaccessibility@unomaha.edu) or go to the website: <https://www.unomaha.edu/student-life/accessibility/index.php>.

Late Policy

On daily/weekly assignments, no late work will be accepted. For major assignments, late work will be penalized by 5% per day late. For example, a paper that earns an 85% but is one day late would receive a grade of 80%.

Schedule of Class Meetings

Week One

Tuesday, January 25: Introduction to the course; Overview of Latin American political and physical geography

- Vanden & Prevost, Chapter 1: An Introduction to Twenty-First Century Latin America

Thursday, January 27: International relations concepts and theories

- “Rethinking Latin America,” *Foreign Affairs* (2012)
- Smith & Covarrubias, preface and Introduction

Part 1: War

Week Two

Tuesday, February 1: Colonial experience as precursor to modern IR of Latin America

- **Bring laptop/device to class; We will register for UNO Research and Creative Activity Fair today** (<https://www.unomaha.edu/office-of-research-and-creative-activity/students/research-and-creative-activity-fair.php>)
- Vanden & Prevost, Chapter 2: Early History

Recommended

- Vanden & Prevost, Chapter 3: Democracy and Dictators: A Historical Overview from Independence to the Present Day (pp. 42-54)

Thursday, February 3: Interstate conflict and state development in Latin America

- Bruce D. Porter, *War and the Rise of the State*, Prologue and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-6)
- Miguel Angel Centeno, *Blood and Debt*, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-26)
- David R. Mares, *Latin America and the Illusion of Peace*, Introduction

Week Three

Tuesday, February 8 and Thursday, February 10: Archival instruction and research

- **Class meets at the UNO Archives and Special Collections (Criss Library 1st Floor)**

Week Four

Tuesday, February 15: Latin America in World War II

- Joseph Smith, "Brazil: Benefits of Cooperation" in *Latin America During World War II*

Thursday, February 17: Argentina-United Kingdom, War in the Falklands/Malvinas

Week Five

Tuesday, February 22: Contemporary Military Missions

- Pion-Berlin, *Military Missions in Democratic Latin America*, Chapter 5: Disaster Relief
- "Why It's Essential to Have More Women in Latin America's Militaries," *Americas Quarterly*

Thursday, February 24: Archival project and presentation work

- **UNO Research and Creative Activity Fair next week (Friday, March 4)**

Part 2: Diplomacy

Week Six

Tuesday, March 1: U.S.-Latin American relations – "The European Game"

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 1-2

Thursday, March 3: Latin American "response" in U.S.-Latin American relations

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 3-4
- Gaston Nerval, "Autopsy of the Monroe Doctrine" (pp. 87-91)

Week Seven

Tuesday, March 8: The Cold War in Latin America

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 5-6
- Cole Blasier, “The Hovering Giant: U.S. Responses to Revolutionary Change in Latin America” (pp. 157-170)

Tuesday, March 10: The Cold War in Latin America, continued

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 7-8
- Alan Luxenberg, “Did Eisenhower Push Castro into the Arms of the Soviets?” (pp. 171-186)

Week Eight

Tuesday, March 15: UNO Spring Break, March 14-16 (No Classes)

Thursday, March 17: U.S.-Cuba Relations and Cuba’s Future – **Guest talk from Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Professor of Political Science**

- Blustein, pp. xvii-60

Part 3: Money

Week Nine

Tuesday, March 22: Political Economy of Latin America

- Blustein, pp. 61-86
- Vanden & Prevost, Chapter 7: The Political Economy of Latin America
- United Nations Development Program, “About Latin America and the Caribbean” here: <http://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/regioninfo/>

Thursday, March 24: Contemporary Trade and Geoeconomics

- Blustein, pp. 87-114
- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 9-10

Week Ten

Tuesday, March 29: China-Latin American Relations

- Blustein, pp. 115-134
- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapter 12
- “Financial Sovereignty or A New Dependency? How China is Remaking Bolivia,” *North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)*, August 2017

Thursday, March 31: Brazil and Soft Power

- Blustein, pp. 135-188

Week Eleven

Tuesday, April 5: Argentina and Debt

- Blustein, pp. 189-242

Thursday, April 7: Concluding Political Economy

Part 4: Migration

Week Twelve

Tuesday, April 12 and Thursday, April 14: U.S. Foreign Policy: Its Enduring Legacies and Human Consequences—Film: *Harvest of Empire*

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapters 13 and 15
- Lance R. Ingwersen and Michael J. LaRosa, “Waiting on Reform: A Brief History of U.S.-Latin American Immigration” (pp. 277-297)

Week Thirteen

Tuesday, April 19 and Thursday, April 21: Push-Pull Factors in Migration

- Smith & Covarrubias, Chapter 14
- Bruce Bagley, “Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in the Americas: Major Trends in the 21st Century” (pp. 215-238)
- “Killers on a Shoestring: Inside the Gangs of El Salvador,” *The New York Times* (November 20, 2016)
- Kirk Semple, “Migrating North, but to Mexico, Not the U.S.,” *The New York Times* (Feb. 12, 2017)
- Abrahm Lustgarten, “The Great Climate Migration,” *The New York Times* (July 23, 2020)

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, April 26: Migration in the Americas – **Guest talk from Dr. Cristián Doña-Reveco, Director of UNO Office of Latino/Latin American Studies and Associate Professor of Sociology**

- Juan Artola, “Toward a More Compassionate Regional Migration Regime in South America” in *Compassionate Migration and Regional Policy in the Americas*, Steven W. Bender and William F. Arrocha, eds. (pp. 173-187)

Recommended

- Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) - University of Nebraska Omaha, “Economic Impact of Latin American & Other Immigrants: Iowa, Nebraska & the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area”

Thursday, April 28: Remittances, Migration, and Development

- Lopez, *The Remittance Landscape: Spaces of Migration in Rural Mexico and Urban USA*

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, May 3: Summary and conclusions

- Michael J. LaRosa and Frank O. Mora, “By Way of Conclusion” (pp. 343-346)