CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: International Relations of Latin America
Course code: INRE 3001 AFLA (SPAN) / LAST 3001 AFLA (SPAN)
Programs offering course: Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course analyzes the contemporary international politics of Latin America by providing students with a general, historical and current description of regional relations in a comparative perspective. It includes topics of regional agenda, models of foreign policy, relations with old (United States and Europe) and new actors (China).

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine international politics in Latin America including its dynamics of cooperation, conflicts between countries in the region, and different models of international engagement.
- Evaluate the emergence of multilateralism and regionalism in Latin America.
- Research the new role of China and United States in Latin America, identifying opportunities and challenges for Latin American countries.
- Compare multiple perspectives to interpret national, regional and international topics from a Latin-American perspective. Gather, critique, synthesize, and evaluate information from a range of sources and media.
- Develop effective oral, written, listening, and non-verbal communication skills in this field.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Each session includes 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to Latin America (students must read newspapers every week to search information about Latin America, in order to use it during the class, and perfecting different skills in the process). In addition, the professor will provide a lecture on topics and readings related with that week's subject. Power Point presentations and videos will be included. The students must elaborate an oral presentation about an issue included in the course.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Final Exam 30%
2. Analysis Paper 20%
3. Brief Reports (2) 10%
4. Oral Presentation 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Final Exam

The course will have a final written exam, including the complete contents of the subject. The students will have to choose 4 topics among 6 and develop an essay during the class. Information, critical analysis and capacity to connect knowledge from different issues will be assessed.

Analysis Paper
The students will be able to choose a topic of interest and produce a grounded, meaningful and theoretically informed analysis about a brief situation or scenario from the present and/or the past. For example US-XX (Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, etc.) relations, a conflict or cooperation initiative, an integration process, China in LA, etc. (the student must present her/his idea to the professor in advance to confirm it). The paper will be in Chicago Style and will have a title page, it will be 2500 words long (must be typed double-spaced, using a 12-point font and one inch margins and include proper citations), it must include a Bibliography page(s). Like in any paper, the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

**Brief Reports (2)**

The students will present two small reports on different topics. One report will be a summary of a conference (on an international topic that involves Latin America or one of its countries), that she/he will attend (for example at CARI). It will be 700-850 words long. The second report will be about one of the field trips, in the form of a "reaction report". It should also be 700-850 words long and should include critical and personal opinions and should link the visit to class discussions and readings (the field trips are to CARI, the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Pink House).

**Oral Presentation**

Each student will give an oral presentation of around 10-15 minutes about one of the countries and/or topics developed in the schedule. The presentation must be concise, directly related to the subject, and include some historical and present data, and consider particularly the mandatory text available for that class. Oral presentations will be distributed for every week according to students interests and selections at the beginning of the course.

**Class Participation**

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Introduction

The professor will explain how the course will be thought; the responsibilities of the students; distribute the materials; organize the future oral presentation; explain any possible field trip, etc. The students will also be able to start learning about some common characteristics of the Latin American foreign policy, with the professor providing a lecture on topics and readings related with that subject and encouraging the debate with, and between, the students.


Week 2
Class: 2.1 US-Latin America Relations

Evolution and main issues of the hemispheric agenda. Models of foreign policies. New approaches between Latin America and the USA.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor will develop a lecture on topics and readings related with the relation between USA and Latin America (shared interests, points of conflict, potential evolution of the relations, etc.). Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included.


Week 3
Class: 3.1 Field trip - Visit to Argentine Council for International Relations

The CARI (www.cari.org) is the highest-ranked Spanish-language think tank on a global scale, according to the report published this year by the Lauder Institute, as part of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programme (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. Working together with the Council on Foreign Relations of the USA, they created the Hemispheric Network of Councils on International Relations, which also includes similar councils from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. A meeting and discussion session will take place between the students and some of the members that belongs to that think tank.

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Session 4: Argentina’s Foreign Policy

Historic and modern tendencies/constants of Argentina’s Foreign Policy. Relations with USA; Europe and neighboring countries. This class will give the students the opportunity to examine and learn more about the general characteristics of Argentine foreign policy.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country’s foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.


Recommended: “La República Perdida II” (film), 1983.

Due: Brief Report #1.

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Field Trip - Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina.
Week 6
Class: 6.1 Brazil’s Foreign Policy

The principal guidelines of Brazilian Foreign Policy. The rising of an emerging power. Regional and global leadership. Relations with neighboring countries and regional blocs.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country’s foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class. That same day a paper will be delivered by each student to the professor.


Due: Brief Report #2.

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Cuba’s Foreign Policy

Evolution and main characteristics of its Foreign Policy. Cuba’s relations towards the USA, Latin America and other regions. Lecture followed by a debate.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country’s foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.

Required: Fernández, in Mora & Hay, 2003, 84-103


Week 8
Class: 8.1 Venezuela’s Foreign Policy

Evolution and main characteristics of its Foreign Policy. Venezuela’s relations towards the USA, Latin America and other regions. Lecture followed by a debate.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country’s foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.

Required: Raby, in Gardini & Lambert, 2011, 159-178

Recommended: Cardozo Da Silva and Hilman, in Mora & Hay, 2003, 145-164; Corrales, 2009, 97-114

Week 9
Class: 9.1 Mexico, the Challenges of a Diversified Foreign Policy

Evolution and main goals of Mexican foreign policy. USA-Mexico relations. Mexico and the Pacific Alliance.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country’s foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.

**Week 10**

**Class: 10.1 Colombia, chances and challenges towards its Foreign Policy**

Main interests, problems and challenges (current and historical). Colombia-US relations. Colombia's foreign policy towards the region.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with this country's foreign policy. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.

Required: Randall, in Gardini & Lambert, 2011, 139-158; Garay, 2011, 65-78; Ramírez, 2012;

**Week 11**

**Class: 11.1 Visit to the Pink House of Argentina.**

The class will take place at our “White House” (http://www.casarosada.gob.ar/), where the students will tour the building and interact with officials that deals with international issues. This will give the opportunity to the students to learn more about how our Foreign Policy is defined and developed.

**Due: Analysis Paper.**

**Week 12**

**Class: 12.1 China and Latin America**

The role of China in the region. Asia-Latin America relations. Interests, challenges and opportunities.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor develops a lecture on topics and readings related with the relation between China and Latin America (shared interests, points of conflict, potential evolution of the relations, etc.). Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. One student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in that class.


**Due: All students must have done the Oral Presentation for this date.**

**Week 13**

**Class: 13.1 New Multilateralism and Regional Process in Latin America**

The region in the political and economical world context. A comparative analysis of MERCOSUR, UNASUR, CELAC, ALBA. Cooperation South-South. IBSA, BRICS, G20. This class will allow the students to recognize the present situation of the different integration blocks; and its main challenges and opportunities.

The class will start with 15-20 minutes discussion about current events related to the topic of that week (students must read newspapers every week to search information about LA). After that, the professor will develop a lecture on topics and readings related with the course schedule. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be used.


**Week 14**

**Class: 14.1 Final Exam**

Students will sit the final exam.

**Due: Final Exam.**
Week 15
Class: 15.1 Wrap Session and Latin American Perspectives

General debate about the developed issues, the exam and any other topic. Feedback for students.

Required: Bitar, 2015

Course Materials
Readings

Required

Bitar, Sergio, “Tendencias mundiales y el futuro de América latina”, Cepal- Diálogo Interamericano, 2015, 56


Fernández de Castro, Rafael & Silva Castañeda, Sergio, “México y la presidencia de Donald Trump” Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica, Vol 17, Nro 1 2017, 27-34


Ramírez, Socorro. “Alcances de la nueva política exterior colombiana” Foreign Affairs Latinoamerica, Enero 2012


Zhimin, Yang “Los actores del desembarco chino en América Latina”, Nueva Sociedad, 259: 2015, 45-54

Recommended


Rojas, Diana. “Colombia frente a Estados Unidos”. Foreign Affairs Latinoamerica, Enero 2012


Online Resources

“BRICS, shaping the new global architecture.”Wilson Center Conference. June 28, 2011

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/brics-shaping-the-new-global-architecture

Media Resources


“La República Perdida II” (1983)

Wilson Center: Conferences

Inter-American Dialogue: Conferences.

Council of Foreign Relations: Interviews