CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: Latin America Contemporary International Relations
Course code: INRE 3101 BAAR
Programs offering course: Buenos Aires Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: International Relations and Political Science
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall Block III 2020

Course Description
This course analyzes contemporary international politics of Latin America, with a focus on regional agendas, models of foreign policy, and relations with old (United States and Europe) and new actors (China). It provides the students with a general, historical and current description of regional relations in a comparative perspective.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Compare and analyze international politics in Latin America to better understand the dynamic of cooperation and conflicts between countries in the region.
- Explain the emergence of multilateralism and regionalism in Latin America.
- Investigate the role of China and the United States in Latin America, identifying opportunities and challenges for the region.
- Analyze US-Latin America relations from a Latin American perspective.
- Compare multiple perspectives to interpret national, regional and international topics from a Latin-American perspective.
- Critique, synthesize, and evaluate information from a range of sources and media in terms of International Politics

Course Prerequisites
Latin American Studies-International Affairs Studies

Methods of Instruction
This class will be taught using lectures, seminars, oral presentations, as well as viewing of videos. 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). The students will be expected to present an oral presentation about an issue included in the course. There will guest lectures and site visits, as well.

Assessment and Final Grade

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Reports</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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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 four topics among six 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. Some appropriate topics include: US-XX (Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, etc.) relations, a conflict or cooperation initiative, an integration process, China in Latin America, etc. The student must present her/his idea to the professor in advance to get approval. The topic may not be the same as the oral presentation topic. The paper must be referenced in Chicago Style and must have a title page, a bibliography page, and be 1500-2000 words of text (must be typed double-spaced, using a 12-point font and one inch margins and include proper citations). It must be submitted as a hard copy and in electronic form to the professor, no later than this due date.

Brief Reports

The students will present two short reports on different topics. The first will be a summary of a conference (on an international topic that involves Latin America or one of its countries), that s/he will attend (for example, at the Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales CARI). The deadline will be on this date (750 words). The second report will be about one of the field trips, in the form of a "reaction report". It should also be short (375-500 words) 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). The deadline will be on this date.

Oral Presentation

Each student will give a ten minute oral presentation 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.

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 excursions, 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 and General Features of IR of Latin America**

The professor will explain how the course will be taught; the responsibilities of the students; distribute the materials; organize the future oral presentation; explain any possible field trip, etc. The students will start to learn about some common characteristics of Latin American foreign policy. The opening lecture will introduce the students to key terms and give an overview of the topics and readings of the course. Students will be encouraged to discuss, debate and question the subject matter with the professor as well as the other students in the class.

Required: Gardini & Lambert, 2011, 13-34

Recommended: Llenderrozas, 2013, 129-150

Class: 1.2 **US-Latin American Relations**

The students will explore the history, evolution and complexities of the diverse connections between the United States and the region. Attention will be paid to areas of cooperation and conflicts, Latin American models of foreign policies towards the United States and present and possible evolution of the relation.

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 that class, interacting with the students. Power Points, films and/or videos available on the internet will be included. This dynamic will be repeated mostly in each class.

Required: Russell & Tokatlian, 2011, 127-146

Class: 1.3 **Field trip - Visit to Argentine Council for International Relations**

The students will tour the CARI and have the opportunity to meet several members of the think tank in order to explore topics related to Latin America and International Relations, and they will also receive a broad picture about how a think tank in Latin America works, and how it can impact in the formulation of a foreign policy. 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, the CARI created the Hemispheric Network of Councils on International Relations, which also includes similar councils from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Reading: students must review the online information available about the CARI at www.cari.org

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 **Argentina’s Foreign Policy**

Students will explore the historical and modern tendencies and constants of Argentina’s Foreign Policy. Through a lecture and discussion, the complex relationships between Argentina and the USA and Europe as well as neighboring countries will be examined. This class will give the students the opportunity to examine and learn more about the general characteristics of Argentine foreign policy, its position regarding the main topics of the regional and international agenda, etc.

Before the lecture, and the classroom discussion on current events, one student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.


Class: 2.2 **Field Trip - Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship**
During this class the students will tour and explore the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship. The students will have the chance to interact with diplomats and officials of our “State Department.” This will provide the students with a closer look of how a Latin American Foreign Ministry works, and the tasks the diplomats implements to achieve the country’s goals at the regional and international levels.

https://www.mrecic.gov.ar/en

Class: 2.3 Brazil’s Foreign Policy: the leader of the region?

This lecture will give the students the opportunity of learning about the historical and present guidelines of the Brazilian Foreign Policy. As an emerging power that belongs to BRICS, with goals of regional and global leadership, and a country that had a very different evolution than the rest of the region, understanding the characteristics of its FP will be particularly important for the students.

At the beginning of the session, one student will give an oral presentation about an issue included in this class.


Due date for submission of the analysis paper

Week 3

Class: 3.1 Cuba’s Foreign Policy

Cuba is a small country that speaks and acts as a big one, and learning about how that has been possible is key to also understand the region evolution during the Cold War and until today. The main characteristics of its Foreign Policy, Cuba’s relations towards the USA, Latin America and other regions will be part of the lecture and the debate of that class.


Class: 3.2 Venezuela’s Foreign Policy

Chavez’s high profile foreign policy was not the only time in Venezuela’s history when that country tried to change regional and international dynamics. The students will learn when and how that was tried to achieve. The evolution and main features of its Foreign Policy, and Venezuela’s main interests with other regions and countries will be covered during the session.

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

Recommended: Cardozo Da Silva and Hilman, in Mora & Hay, 2003, 145-164

Class: 3.3 Trip to the north of Argentina

Considering that the students will be in another province that day, during that week each student must send by e-mail 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).

Week 4

Class: 4.1 Mexico, the Challenges of a Diversified Foreign Policy

The students will be able to listen and contribute to a lecture where topics like Mexican-American War, French Intervention, PRI’s Foreign Policy, the Pacific Alliance and the search of a diversified FP, migration and several other topics will be developed. Sharing the USA a common border, and a very complex bilateral agenda with Mexico, this will give the American students the chance of having a broader image and understanding of a country whose economy could become one of the biggest in the world during the XXI Century.

Required: Covarrubias, in Gardini & Hey, 2011, 213-234;

Recommended: Domínguez, in Domínguez & Fernandez de Castro, 2010, 17-43

Class: 4.2 Colombia, chances and challenges towards its Foreign Policy
During this session the professor will teach about this country's main foreign interests, problems and challenges (current and historical). Colombian US relations and the deep impact of the loss of Panama will be analyzed, as well as the several "intermestics" problems (drugs, guerrilla and paramilitaries, etc.) that have been very common for the last decades.

Required: Randall, in Gardini & Lambert, 2011, 139-158

Class: 4.3 Visit to the Pink House of Argentina

The class will take place at our "White House", where the students will tour the building and interact with officials that deals with international issues. This will give the students the opportunity to learn more about how our Foreign Policy is defined and developed from the point of view of the Executive Power.

http://www.casarosada.gob.ar/

**Due date for presentation of paper**

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 Chile: Trade Policy and Politics Insertion in Latin America

"By right or might" is the Chilean national motto, and the professor will explain why. The lecture and debate will include the main characteristics of Chilean Foreign Policy, and the evolution of its relations towards neighboring countries like Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, as well as its international insertion strategy, and the importance of the Pacific Alliance and other regional blocs or initiatives.


Class: 5.2 China and Latin America

During this class the students will receive a presentation about the role of China in the region, and why this state could represent at the same time an opportunity, a risk and a potential ally for different Latin American countries. Understanding the way how a relatively new actor is transforming the region represents an imperative to all.

Required: Dosch, & Goodman, 2012, 3-19

Class: 5.3 New Multilateralism and Regional Process in Latin America

The session will show the region in the political and economical world context, providing a comparative analysis of MERCOSUR, UNASUR, CELAC, ALBA. Cooperation South-South and other regional initiatives. The importance of IBSA, BRICS and G20 will be also covered. This class will allow the students to recognize the present situation of the different integration blocks; and its main challenges and opportunities.

Required: Llenderrozas, 2013, 129-150

Recommended: Malamud & Gardini, 2012, 116-132

**Week 6**

Class: 6.1 Wrap Session and Latin American Perspectives

Through a class debate about the developed issues, the future of the integration and political affairs of the region will be examined and evaluated. In small groups students will discuss topics assigned by the professor.

Class: 6.2 Final review

Professor will review the main topics that will be included in the final exam, followed by a Q&A

Class: 6.3 Final exam essay due

**Course Materials**

**Readings**
Readings (Recommended)


Media Resources

- “La República Perdida II” (1983) Wilson Center: Conferences
- Inter-American Dialogue: Conferences.
- Council of Foreign Relations: Interviews