

(PALAS 366) US–Latin America Relations
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Program in Argentine and Latinamerican Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Course Syllabus 2015-1

Course Information

Lecture session: Monday 10:00 – 11: 30

Discussion sessions: Wednesday 08:30 – 10:00 & 10:00 – 11:30

Hours of Instruction: 60

Instruction in: English

Contact Information

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Descripción del curso / Course Description

This survey course studies the formation of the relationship between the U. S. and Latin America since the early days of the Wars of Independence. The period of continental state formation, the subsequent U. S. southward expansion by the turn of the century, and the transformations that occurred as a consequence of U.S. position as a world power, including the World Wars, the Cold War and its aftermath, and the current post-Cold War transition will be analyzed also. While the course will implement a comprehensive historical approach, the focus is placed on the analysis of specific moments and crises. Even when the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries are the grounds to understand the process of policy formation, the bulk of the course concentrates on the diplomatic performance in the Twentieth Century to the present. We will not only address the analysis of the major continental actors that shaped the core of the inter-American relations but also to less known actors that have impacted relations as well.

Course Requirements

Following UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with attendance policy. Notice that classes missed for national holidays will not be recovered. No excuses will be granted for travelling. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class. During the semester, students will do one oral presentations in pairs and write a 2-3 page report. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research. UB holds to the view that plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and is a serious breach of acceptable conduct. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester. The requirements also include a midterm and a final exam. The teaching process, through theoretical and practical activities, seeks to stimulate active and reflexive, individual and group participation through critical reading.

Grading Policy

Participation and presentations	30%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the student handbook (page 9) in orientation kit packet.

Course Content:

Unit 1: The American Revolutions (1776-1824)

Nature and crisis of the European imperial systems in America. The American revolutions of independence and the emergence of national states. Initial contacts among the new Americans.

Unit 2: The formation of the national States and of the intercontinental diplomatic relations (1825-1898)

The context of the European Industrial Revolution: colonialism and imperialism. Great Britain in the Americas. The formation of the U.S. foreign policy: the Monroe Doctrine, the Manifest Destiny, the territorial expansion, and the projection over Central America. The Panamerican Union as transcontinental projection.

Unit 3: The transition of the U.S. to great power (1898-1945)

Financial capitalism and imperialism. The Theodore Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine and the Caribbean Policeman as exports of the domestic Reform. Intervention in the Mexican Revolution. Contradictions in the First World War: neutrality and engagement. The Panamerican Conferences: conflicting continental projects. The new FDR policy: Good Neighbors. Contradictions in the Second World War: neutrality and engagement.

Unit 4: The Cold War and the U.S. continental hegemony (1947-1990)

The transition of the U.S. to superpower: meaning and dynamics of the Cold War in Latin America. Limitations of the regional U.S. policy: the National Security Doctrine and the Populist regimes. Interventions in Argentina, Bolivia, and Guatemala. *Trade not Aid, Trade and Aid*, and the 1958 Nixon failure. Limitations of the new regional U.S. policies: the Alliance for Progress for continental modernization vs. coups d'état and covert operations. Carter and the brief emergence of human rights: Nicaragua. Reagan's new Cold War: crisis of the external debt and multiple interventions.

Unit 5: The post-Cold War transition (1991-)

Redefinition of the U.S. hegemony in Latin America. The Initiative for the Americas: global capitalism, free market, commercial integration, and recurrent economic crisis. U. S. intervention through the new intermestic agenda: natural resources, patents, speculative capital, protectionism, migrations, narcotraffic, terrorism.

Academic Calendar

Week 1/ Unit 1

Introduction: The American Revolutions (1776-1824)

Lecture session: Introduction

Discussion session: Langley, America and the Americas
Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America
Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War

Prelude
Introduction
Foreword

Week 2 / Unit 1

Introduction: The American Revolutions (1776-1824)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas

Chapter 1

Discussion session: Langley, America and the Americas

Chapter 2

Week 3/ Unit 2

The formation of the national States and of the intercontinental diplomatic relations (1825-1898)

Holiday

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas

Chapter 3

Week 4/ Unit 2

The formation of the national States and of the intercontinental diplomatic relations (1825-1898)

Discussion session: Tulchin, Argentina and the United States

Chapter 1

Discussion session: Langley, America and the Americas

Chapter 4

Week 5 / Unit 3

The transition of the U.S. to great power (1898-1945)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas

Chapter 5

Discussion session: Tulchin, Argentina and the United States
Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America

Chapter 2
Part I 1,3

Week 6/ Unit 3

Report due

The transition of the U.S. to great power (1898-1945)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas Chapter 6

Discussion session: Tulchin, Argentina and the United States Chapter 4, 5
Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War Chapter 1

Week 7/ Unit 3

The transition of the U.S. to great power (1898-1945)

Lecture session: Tulchin, Argentina and the United States Chapter 6

Discussion session: Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America Part III 1,2
Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War Chapter 3

Week 8

Review

Midterm exam

Week 9/ Unit 4

The Cold War and the U.S. continental hegemony (1947-1990)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas Chapter 7
Leslie Bethell, "From the Second World War to the Cold War:
1944-1954," in Lowenthal (ed.), Exporting Democracy

Discussion session: Rabe, Eisenhower and Latin America Chapter 3, 6
Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War Chapter 5
Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America Part IV 1,2

Week 10/ Unit 4

The Cold War and the U.S. continental hegemony (1947-1990)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas Chapter 8

Discussion session: Claudio González Chiaramonte, "Expanding Paradigms,
Redesigning Frontiers," in Ninkovich & Bu, The Cultural Turn
Tulchin, Argentina and the United States Chapter 7

Week 11/ Unit

The Cold War and the U.S. continental hegemony (1947-1990)

Lecture session: Langley, America and the Americas Chapter 9

Discussion session: Langley, America and the Americas Chapter 10
 Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War Chapter 9
 Rollin, The Americanization of the Global Village Chapter 1

Week 12/ Unit 4

The Cold War and the U.S. continental hegemony (1947-1990)

Lecture session: **Holiday**

Discussion session: Thomas Carothers, "The Reagan Years," in Lowenthal (ed.),
Exporting Democracy
 Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America Chapter 6

Week 13/ Unit 5

The post-Cold War transition (1991-)

Lecture session: Lowenthal, Partners in Conflict Chapter 5

Discussion session: Lowenthal, Partners in Conflict Chapter 4, 6
 Tulchin, Argentina and the United States Chapter 8
 Mintz & Roberts, Hollywood's America Part 5

Week 14/ Unit 5

The post-Cold War transition (1991-)

Lecture session: Lowenthal, Partners in Conflict Chapter 7

Discussion session: Tulchin, Argentina and the United States Chapter 9
 Review

Week 15**Review**

Final exam and signature of *Hoja de situación* (attendance is mandatory)

Students holding a student visa will not be allowed to take final exams, they have to go to the 17 Floor to clear the hold.

Bibliography

- Lester D. Langley, America and the Americas: The United States in the Western Hemisphere (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1989)
- Michael H. Hunt, Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy (New Haven: Yale UP, 1987)
- Joseph S. Tulchin, Argentina and the United States: A Conflicted Relationship (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990)
- Thomas Leonard, The Panama Canal & the United States (Claremont: Regina, 2001)
- Abraham F. Lowenthal (ed.), Exporting Democracy: The United States and Latin America; Themes and Issues (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1991)
- Stephen G. Rabe, Eisenhower and Latin America (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1988)
- Frank Ninkovich & Liping Bu, The Cultural Turn (Chicago: Imprint Pub, 2001)
- Abraham F. Lowenthal, Partners in Conflict: The United States and Latin America in the 1990s (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1990)
- Tulio Halperín Donghi, Contemporary History of Latin America (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987)
- Fernando Enrique Cardoso y Enzo Faletto, Dependency and Development in Latin America (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979)
- Demetrio Boesner, Relaciones Internacionales de América Latina (Caracas: N. Sociedad, 1987)
- Eduardo Galeano, Las venas abiertas de América Latina (Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1973)
- Steven Mintz & Randy Roberts, Hollywood's America: United States History through its Films (New York: Brandywine Press, 1993)
- Stephen Whitfield, The Culture of the Cold War (Baltimore: The John's Hopkins University, 1991)