Spring 2018: U.S. Intervention in Latin America
(Chc-Lat 150 / Hist 166 / IS 177D / Pol Sci 142J)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)
Office: 433 Social Science Tower / MWF 12:00-12:30 & by appt.

TA: Daniel Weisz Argomedo (dweiszar@uci.edu)

Course Description:
This course explores the political, economic, social, and cultural ties that bind Latin America to the United States. It focuses on the varied forms of US intervention from the early 19th century to the present day and the Latin American response to such contact. The class covers the development of relations in the context of expansionism, imperialism, the Cold War, and post-Cold War periods. Case studies include Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, and Central America. Among the topics and themes are manifest destiny, trade, culture, race, drugs, immigration, and human rights. Students are expected to attend lectures, discussion sections, and read all assigned materials. Lectures are supplemented with videos.

Requirements:
Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (May 4 / 25%), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (May 25 / 25%), a final (June 13 / 35%), and attendance as well as participation in discussion sections (15%). Exams will combine short identifications and longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Students, therefore, must attend lectures, finish all readings by the assigned date, and be prepared for discussion.

Course Schedule

Week 1:
April 2 Introduction: Themes in US - Latin American Relations
April 4 New Republics, Expanding Horizons
April 6 The Expansionist Impulse
Readings:


Week 2:

April 9    Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico
April 11   The Move towards Empire: Cuba and the United States
April 13   Establishing an Empire: the Spanish American War

Readings:


Week 3:

April 16   Building a Canal
April 18   Business Expansionism
April 20   Taking Sides: US Intervention in Mexico

Readings:


**Week 4:**

April 23 1910s - 1920s: Interventions and Occupations

April 25 Good Neighbors, FDR, and WWII

April 27 Changing Priorities: the Cold War in Latin America

**Readings:**


- Burton, Julianne. "Don (Juanito) Duck and the Imperial-Patriarchal Unconscious: Disney Studios, the Good Neighbor Policy, and the Packaging of Latin America,” in Andrew Parker, ed., *Nationalisms & Sexualities* (Routledge, 1992), pp. 21-41.


- Longley, Kyle. *In the Eagle’s Shadow* (Harlan Davidson, 2009), pp. 166-195.

**Week 5:**

April 30 The Bolivian Revolution

May 2 Confronting Communism in Guatemala

May 4 Midterm Exam
Readings:


Week 6:

May 7  Cuba I: Making a Revolution

May 9  Cuba II: Playa Girón

May 11 Cuba III: The Missile Crisis

Readings:


- Sherwin, Martin J. "One Step from Nuclear War: The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50," Prologue Magazine, 44:2 (Fall 2012).

Week 7:

May 14  Containment and Economic Development

May 16  Containment and Authoritarian Regimes

May 18  Chile: Popular Unity, Allende, and Pinochet

Readings:


Week 8:

May 21    The Carter Interlude
May 23    Nicaragua: the Sandinista National Liberation Front
May 25    From Grenada to El Salvador

Readings:


Week 9:

May 28    Memorial Day
May 30    End of the Cold War
June 1    The Drug War
**Readings:**


**Week 10:**

June 4 Trade, NAFTA, and Neo-Liberalism
June 6 Immigration and Politics
June 8 Conclusions

**Readings:**