Spring 2019: U.S. Intervention in Latin America
(Chc-Lat 150 / Hist 166 / IS 177D / Pol Sci 142J)

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Office hours: MWF 12:00-12:30 & by appt.

TA:

**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 3 / 25%), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (May 24 / 25%), a final (June 12 / 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**

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**Week 1:**

April 1    Introduction: Themes in US - Latin American Relations
April 3    New Republics, Expanding Horizons
April 5    The Expansionist Impulse
Readings:


Week 2:

April 8  Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico

April 10  The Move towards Empire: Cuba and the United States

April 12  Establishing an Empire: the Spanish American War

Readings:


Week 3:

April 15  Building a Canal

April 17  Business Expansionism

April 19  Taking Sides: US Intervention in Mexico

Readings:

Week 4:

April 22 1910s - 1920s: Interventions and Occupations
April 24 Good Neighbors, FDR, and WWII
April 26 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 29 The Bolivian Revolution
May 1 Confronting Communism in Guatemala
May 3 Midterm Exam
Readings:


Week 6:

May 6  Cuba I: Making a Revolution

May 8  Cuba II: Playa Girón

May 10 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 13  Containment and Economic Development

May 15  Containment and Authoritarian Regimes

May 17  Chile: Popular Unity, Allende, and Pinochet

Readings:


**Week 8:**

May 20      The Carter Interlude
May 22      Nicaragua: the Sandinista National Liberation Front
May 24      From Grenada to El Salvador

**Readings:**


**Week 9:**

May 27      Memorial Day
May 29      End of the Cold War
May 31      The Drug War
Readings:


Week 10:

June 3     Trade, NAFTA, and Neo-Liberalism
June 5     Immigration and Politics
June 7     Conclusions

Readings: