

# **U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS**

HIST 5422-01, Fall 2010. Pafford 204, MW 3:30-4:45 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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## **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the history of relations between Latin America and the United States from 1783 to the present. From the beginning, the United States has had close relations with Latin American peoples. The U.S. has acquired territory from, invested in, and militarily intervened in Latin America. Issues of drug trafficking, immigration, free trade, and new leftist governments have continued to keep Americans focused on their relations with Latin America. In addition, the U.S. has had a significant Latino population since the 1840s, and Latinos now constitute over 13% of its population, with more than 37 million people claiming Latino origins. For these reasons, Americans need to understand their relationship with Latin America.

## **Learning Objectives**

Students who apply themselves in this course will acquire the tools to understand America's complex relationship with Latin Americans from both the Anglo-American and Latin American perspective. They will learn that Americans and Latin Americans have continuously interacted and mixed in ways that have defied borders for over 200 years. Students will better appreciate the multicultural nature of the world we live in, improve their knowledge of places beyond their own familiar world, and gain a greater understanding of Latin Americans, our nearest neighbors and our largest minority group. They will also improve the critical thinking and writing skills that all of their other important endeavors will require. Graduate students will also demonstrate familiarity with the historical literature and some of the historiographical developments in the field of U.S.-Latin American relations

## **Course Requirements**

I will expect you to meet with me at least once every two weeks to discuss your progress on a graduate-quality research paper or bibliographic essay. For each meeting, you should submit written evidence of progress (first a bibliography, then drafts).

You will be expected to keep up with other reading and assignments.

Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 5% of your final grade. More than 10 absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so

that you may be aware of any changes.

### **Grading**

Your final grade will represent the sum of the following:

Midterm Exam (15%)

Final Exam (20%)

*Tree of Hate* review (10%)

*On Becoming Cuban* assignments (20%)-dates to be announced

*Bitter Fruit* review (10%)

Research Paper or Bibliographic Essay (25%)

As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade. Disruptive behavior may also result in points taken out of your grade.

Your exam dates are noted on this syllabus, and you will be informed of quiz dates ahead of time. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates.

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Plagiarism on the written assignments will result in an F for the course. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper, even if they study together. You are not allowed to submit your own work from a previous course without the prior instructor's and my permission.

### **Special Accommodations**

If you are on record with the university's Disability Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please meet with me during my regular office hours as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for special accommodations must be made at least one week before the exams.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Disability Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Student Development Center at 272 Parker Hall.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication**

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are not to be used in the classroom. The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited. Any use of such devices during a quiz or exam will be considered a breach of academic honesty.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only

discuss your grades with you in person.

**Required Books:**

Robert H. Holden, and Eric Zolov, eds. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN 9780195385687

Philip Wayne Powell. *Tree of Hate: Propaganda and Prejudices affecting United States Relations with the Hispanic World*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009. ISBN 9780826345769

Louis A. Pérez, Jr. *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality, and Culture*. Ecco Press (Harper Collins), 1999. ISBN 9780060958995

Stephen Schlesinger, Stephen Kinzer. *Bitter Fruit*. Harvard University Press, 2005. ISBN 9780674019300

**Course Schedule:**

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS (Holden & Zolov documents)
Aug. 16	Introduction to the course	
Aug. 18	Latin America and the U.S.: First Contacts	Nos. 1-2
Aug. 23	First Contacts Continued	Nos. 3-4
Aug. 25	Texas and Southwestern Contacts	No. 8
Aug. 30	Texas Continued <b>Powell paper due</b>	
Sept. 1	The Mexican-American War	Nos. 9, 12, 11
Sept. 6	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Labor Day)	
Sept. 8	Slavery, Crossing Central America, and Rivalry with Britain	Nos. 7, 10, 13, 15
Sept. 13	Post-Civil War Relations <b>Bibliography for research paper due</b>	Nos. 17-19
Sept. 15	U.S.-Cuban Relations to 1898	Nos. 14
Sept. 20	The Development of an Imperial Mentality	Nos. 20, 21, 23

Sept. 22	The Spanish-American War	Nos. 25-28, 30
Sept. 27	The Spanish-American War Continued	
Sept. 29	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Oct. 4	Panama and the Canal	Nos. 32-33
Oct. 6	Panama and the Canal Continued <b>Last day to withdraw with grade of W</b>	
Oct. 11	Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy	Nos. 36-37
Oct. 13	Protectorates and Occupation	Nos. 38-44, 46, 48, 50
Oct. 18	The Good Neighbor Policy	Nos. 51-59
Oct. 20	<b>Film</b>	
Oct. 25	Latin America and World War II	Nos. 60-66
Oct. 27	The Early Cold War <b>Schlesinger &amp; Kinzer paper due</b>	Nos. 67-76
Nov. 1	The Cuban Revolution	Nos. 77-87, 128, 130
Nov. 3	Cold War, 1960s & 1970s	Nos. 88-108
Nov. 8	<b>Film</b>	
Nov. 10	The Reagan Years	Nos. 109-119
Nov. 15	The War on Drugs	Nos. 121, 132
Nov. 17	U.S. Immigration Policy	No. 125, 135
Nov. 22	Neoliberalism, Free Trade, and U.S. Policy	Nos. 122-23, 126, 131
Nov. 24	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Thanksgiving Break)	
Nov. 29	New Leftists and U.S. Policy	Nos. 136-138
Dec. 1	Documents discussion <b>Final version of research paper or bibliographic essay due</b>	
Dec. 10	<b>Final Exam 2:00-4:00 PM</b>	