

Political Science 325
 Politics of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
 Welles 128
 M-W-F: 9:00-9:50
 Spring 2010

Prof. E. Drachman
 Office: Welles 3B
 Office Phone: 245-5456
 Office Hours: M W
 10-11:30 and by appt

Course Description and Purpose

This course focuses on the politics of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean and U.S. policy in these regions. Special attention will be paid to causes of conflict and tension and attempts to promote economic development, social justice, representative democracy and regional cooperation.

Required Readings

1. Paul Goodwin (ed.). LATIN AMERICA, 13th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2009
2. Noam Chomsky, Paul Farmer *et al.* GETTING HAITI RIGHT THIS TIME. Common Courage Press, 2004
3. Julia Sweig. CUBA: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW. Oxford, 2009
4. Sonia Nazarro. ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY. Random House, 2006
5. John Booth, C. Wade, and T. Walker. UNDERSTANDING CENTRAL AMERICA. Westview, 2006
6. Victor Davis Hanson. MEXIFORNIA. Encounter Books, 2004
7. A. DeGrave, E. Santon-Phillips, and J. DeGrave (eds.). TAKING SIDES: CLASHING VIEWS ON LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES, McGraw-Hill, 2007

Valuable Website: Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Participation	10 percent of grade
Class Presentation	10 percent of grade
Midterm Exam	20 percent of grade
Research Paper	30 percent of grade
Final Exam	30 percent of grade

Grading of Class Participation

1. Offer comments and volunteer responses in class discussion.
2. Answer questions from instructor when asked.
3. Challenge positions/ideas/arguments of instructor and fellow students.
4. Raise pertinent questions.

Research Paper

Topic: Anything directly related to this course. It is recommended that the instructor approve the topic.

Length: Approximately 15 pages, typed (no. 12 font) and double-spaced

Grading: Grades will be based on the quality of research, content, analysis and writing.

*All papers must include notes and bibliography that must contain evidence of use of at least 2 primary sources, 2 scholarly journals, and 2 books.

Due Date: At the beginning of class (and in class) on Friday, April 19. No late papers or email submissions will be accepted.

** **A warning on plagiarism.** If plagiarism is detected students will be reported to the Dean of the College for disciplinary action that may result in dismissal.

Class Absences: Students may not have more than four (4) unexcused absences to receive credit for the course.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Part 1. THE CARIBBEAN

January 20: The Legacy of the Encounter, Introduction to the Caribbean

Read: Goodwin, Latin America. Myth and Reality, pp. 3-6; and "The Caribbean Sea of Diversity," pp. 117-22; DeGrave, Introduction

January 22-25: Puerto Rico

Read: A.Z. Rubinstein, "Is Statehood for Puerto Rico in the National Interest?" IN DEPTH, spring 1993, pp. 87-100 (hand-out); DeGrave, Issue 5

January 27: **CLASS DISCUSSION**: The Future Status of Puerto Rico

January 29-February 10: Haiti

Read: Chomsky *et al* (entire); Goodwin, Country Report, and Michelle Wucker, "Haiti: So Many Mishaps," *World Policy Journal*, spring 2004

February 12-15: The Dominican Republic

Read: Goodwin, Country Report

February 17-26: Cuba

Read: Goodwin, Country Report and Article 21; Sweig (entire); Mary Beth Sheridan, "Human Rights Group says Cuba is Holding Scores of Political Prisoners," *Washington Post*, November 18, 2009; Larry Rohter, "Yoani Sanchez, "Virtually Outspoken in Cuba," *New York Times*, October 18, 2009; and DeGrave, Issue 3

February 22: **STUDENT REPORT**: Should the U.S. rescind or modify its embargo against Cuba? (2 students)

February 24: **CLASS DISCUSSION**: How will history judge the rule of Fidel Castro?

Midterm Exam: Friday, February 26

Part 2. MEXICO

March 1-12

Read: Goodwin, Country Report and Articles 5 and 8; Kate Doyle, "Forgetting is not Justice," *World Policy Journal*, summer 2003; Philip Caputo, "The Border Madness," *The Atlantic*, December 2009, pp. 62-69; Steve Fainaru and William Booth, "Mexico's drug cartels siphon liquid gold," *Washington Post*, December 13, 2009.

March 8: **STUDENT REPORT.** Is Walmart in Mexico good for most Mexicans?

March 10: **STUDENT REPORT.** Maquiladoras (past, present and future)

March 12: **STUDENT REPORT.** Mexico's drug problem

Enjoy Spring Break! March 15-19

PART 3. CENTRAL AMERICA

March 22-26: THE IMMIGRATION DILEMMA

March 22: Central American (and Mexican and Caribbean) immigrants in the U.S.

Read: Nazarro (entire); Michelle Wucker, "Remittances. The Perpetual Migration Machine," *World Policy Journal*, summer 2004; and Peter Goodman, "In Mexico, People Want to Stay," *Washington Post*, January 7, 2007

March 24: **STUDENT DEBATE:** Should states allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition to public colleges and universities? (2 students)

March 26: **STUDENT DEBATE:** Should the U.S. institute a guest worker program that would include amnesty for illegal immigrants? (2 students)

Read: Hanson (entire)

Watch Frontline Programs: "Mexico. A Death in the Desert" (June 2004); and "Chicago's Little Mexico: Legal Son of an Illegal Immigrant" (October 2006)

March 29-April 2: LIFE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Read: DeGrave, Part IV; Sara Miller Liana, "New Law Would Require Officials to Move Street Kids into Schools or other Programs," *Christian Science Monitor*, June 1, 2009; Goodwin, articles 1, 5, and 7

Watch Ray Suarez, "Mexico's Opportunities Program," Online Newshour, December 26, 2009

March 31: **STUDENT REPORT.** The impact of religion (2 students). Focus on Catholics, Evangelical sects and Muslims.

April 2: **STUDENT REPORT.** Poverty and anti-poverty programs (2 students). Discuss Opportunities Program in Mexico and nutrition program in Honduras.

April 5-9: CAFTA, NAFTA and the "Washington Consensus"

Read: DeGrave, Issues 16-18; William Cohen, "We have to have CAFTA," *Wall Street Journal*, April 26, 2005; Juan Carlos Hidalgo, "More than CAFTA is at stake in Costa Rica," *Miami Herald*, October 5, 2007

April 7: **STUDENT REPORT:** Pros and cons of NAFTA and CAFTA. Is the "Washington Consensus" Dead?

April 9: **STUDENT REPORT:** Role of China in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

Read: DeGrave, Issues 14, 15; Goodwin, Article 9; Booth, Ch. 2

April 12-14: LATIN AMERICA'S TURN TO THE LEFT

Read: Jorge Castenada, "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2006; DeGrave, Issue 2; Goodwin, Articles 1-4, 14-16; Booth, Ch. 9

April 14: **STUDENT REPORT**. How should the U.S. deal with Hugo Chavez? (2 students) Include discussion of Venezuelan-Cuban relations.

April 16. ISSUES OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Read: DeGrave, Issue 12; Goodwin, Articles 17, 19

April 16: **STUDENT REPORTS**: Ecotourism in Costa Rica; preserving the Amazon

SELECTED COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA

April 19-21: Guatemala

Read: Booth, Ch. 7; Goodwin, Country Report, and Report of Commission for Historical Clarification and Reconstruction in Guatemala (web)

April 19: **STUDENT REPORT**. Guatemalan Civil War (causes, consequences, results)

April 21. **STUDENT REPORT**. Adoption of Guatemalan children OR the situation of the Mayans

April 23-26. El Salvador and Honduras

Read: Goodwin, Country Reports and Article 12; DeGrave, Issue 7; Booth, chapters 6 and 8; and Paula Pinheiro, "Youth, Violence, and Democracy," *Current History*, February 2007

April 23: **STUDENT REPORT**. Youth Gangs in U.S.A. from El Salvador

April 26: **STUDENT REPORT**. Causes and consequences of the "coup" in Honduras

April 28. Nicaragua

Read: Goodwin, Country Report, Article 12; Booth, ch. 5; and Sara Miller Liana, "The most recent Latin American leader to overturn presidential term limits is Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega," *Christian Science Monitor*, November 15, 2009

Watch Frontline Program: "Guatemala/Mexico: Can Fair Trade Save the Farm?" May 2003

April 30. Panama

Read: Goodwin, Country Report; Booth, chapters 10-11

STUDENT REPORT: Operation Just Cause

May 3. CONCLUSIONS

FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, MAY 10, 8:00-11