

U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

HIST 4422-01, Fall 2016. Pafford 204, MW 3:30-4:45 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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Office hours: M and F 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, or by appointment

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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.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. 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 (20%)

Final Exam (25%)

Tree of Hate review (10%)

Cabbages and Kings review (10%)

The Business of Empire review (10%)

Becoming Mexican American review (10%)

Map quizzes and film review (15%)

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 to be used only for taking notes. 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 (there is also a CourseDen e-mail, but I would prefer that you use the normal work e-mail listed on the first page). You should be aware that all e-mail is potentially insecure, and it is preferable to discuss grades in person.

Required Books:

O. Henry. *Cabbages and Kings*. Electronic version on CourseDen.

Philip Wayne Powell. *Tree of Hate*. University of New Mexico Press, 2009. ISBN 9780826345769

Jason Colby. *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansion in Central America*. Cornell University Press, 2013. ISBN 9780801478994 or 9780801449154

George J. Sánchez. *Becoming Mexican American*. Oxford University Press, 1995. ISBN 9780195096484

Course Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC
Aug. 10	Introduction to the course
Aug. 15	Latin America and the U.S.: First Contacts
Aug. 17	First Contacts Continued
Aug. 22	Texas and Southwestern Contacts Map Quiz 1
Aug. 24	Texas and Southwestern Contacts Continued
Aug. 29	The Mexican-American War Powell paper due
Aug. 31	Slavery, Crossing Central America, and Rivalry with Britain
Sept. 5	NO CLASS (Labor Day)
Sept. 7	Post-Civil War Relations
Sept. 12	U.S.-Cuban Relations to 1898 O. Henry paper due
Sept. 14	The Development of an Imperial Mentality
Sept. 19	The Spanish-American War
Sept. 21	Midterm Exam
Sept. 26	Panama and the Canal
Sept. 28	Panama and the Canal Continued Map Quiz 2
Sept. 30	<i>Last day to withdraw with grade of W</i>
Oct. 3	Big Stick and Dollar Diplomacy
Oct. 5	Protectorates and Occupation Colby paper due
Oct. 10	The Good Neighbor Policy and World War II

Oct. 12 The Early Cold War

Oct. 17 The Cuban Revolution and Cold War, 1960s & 1970s

Oct. 19 The Cuban Revolution and Cold War, 1960s & 1970s Continued

Oct. 24 **Begin film**

Oct. 26 **End film**

Oct. 31 The Reagan Years

Nov. 2 The War on Drugs

Nov. 7 Latinos and U.S. Immigration Policy
Sánchez paper due

Nov. 9 U.S. Immigration to Latin America: guest lecture by Dr. Neema Noori

Nov. 14 NO CLASS

Nov. 16 Mexico from Debt Crisis to NAFTA: guest lecture by Mr. Michael Epanchin

Nov. 21-23 **NO CLASS** (Thanksgiving Break)

Nov. 28 Neoliberalism, Free Trade, and U.S. Policy

Nov. 30 New Leftists and U.S. Policy

Dec. 7 **Final Exam 2:00-4:30 PM**