

# U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS

HIST 5422-01, Fall 2016. 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.

## Course Requirements

You will write a graduate-quality research paper or bibliographic essay. This paper should be a minimum of 25 pages with proper citations and bibliography. The paper and sources must include Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit*; Richard Immerman, *The CIA in Guatemala*; Jason Colby, *The Business of Empire*; and any applicable documents from Robert H. Holden and Eric Zolov, eds. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History* (all on your required book list). You are free to develop the paper from there in one of several directions: it could be US relations with Guatemala, US foreign policy in the Eisenhower presidency, US relations with Latin America in the Cold War, a comparison of the 1954 Guatemalan coup and the 1952 Iranian coup, etc. You will be responsible for identifying at least five additional sources and presenting me with a list by Sept. 12. You will also be responsible for a rough draft of your paper (due Nov. 16) and a final draft (due Nov. 30).

You will also be responsible for reading and discussing documents in Robert H. Holden and

Eric Zolov, eds. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*. The documents are listed after the course schedule in five groups. We will meet out of normal class at five times to discuss each group of documents.

You will also be responsible for other assignments listed under “Grading.”

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%)

*The Business of Empire* review (10%)

*Becoming Mexican American* review (10%)

Discussions of Holden and Zolov documents (10%)

Research Paper or Bibliographic Essay (25%)

As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade.

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 to take notes 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. You should be aware that all e-mail is potentially insecure, and it is preferable to discuss grades 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

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

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

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

Richard Immerman. *The CIA in Guatemala*. University of Texas Press, 1982. ISBN 9780292710832

### **Course Schedule:**

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|---------|---|
| 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                     |
| Aug. 24 | Texas and Southwestern Contacts Continued           |
| Aug. 29 | The Mexican-American War<br><b>Powell paper due</b> |

- Aug. 31 Slavery, Crossing Central America, and Rivalry with Britain  
**Discuss documents in Group 1**
- Sept. 5 **NO CLASS** (Labor Day)
- Sept. 7 Post-Civil War Relations
- Sept. 12 U.S.-Cuban Relations to 1898  
**List of sources for research paper or bibliographic essay 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  
**Discuss Documents in Group 2**
- Sept. 30 *Last day to withdraw with grade of W*
- 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  
**Discuss Documents in Group 3**
- Oct. 19 The Cuban Revolution and Cold War, 1960s & 1970s Continued
- Oct. 24 **Begin film**
- Oct. 26 **End film**  
**Discuss Documents in Group 4**
- 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  
**Discuss Documents in Group 5**
- Nov. 14          NO CLASS
- Nov. 16          Mexico from Debt Crisis to NAFTA: guest lecture by Mr. Michael  
                          Epanchin  
**Rough draft of research paper or bibliographic essay due**
- Nov. 21-23      **NO CLASS** (Thanksgiving Break)
- Nov. 28          Neoliberalism, Free Trade, and U.S. Policy
- Nov. 30          New Leftists and U.S. Policy  
**Final version of research paper or bibliographic essay due**
- Dec. 7           **Final Exam 2:00-4:30 PM**

**Document Groups: from Robert H. Holden and Eric Zolov, eds. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*.**

**GROUP 1**

- No. 6 1829 The United States: "Destined to Plague America with Torments," by Simón Bolívar
- No. 11 1847 The United States: "An Inconceivable Extravaganza," by Domingo Faustino Sarmiento
- No. 16 1866 Mexico Seeks Support Against a Foreign Aggressor, by Matías Romero
- No. 22 1894 The Character of the United States, by Jose Martí
- No. 29 1900 Ariel, by Jose Enrique Rodo

**GROUP 2**

- No. 31 1902 The Drago Doctrine, by Luis M. Drago
- No. 34 1904 "To Roosevelt," by Ruben Dario
- No. 45 1922 An Argentine Denunciation of Imperialism, by Jose Ingenieros
- No. 47 1926 A Latin American Doctrine of Anti-Imperialism, by Victor Haya de la Torre
- No. 49 1928 With Sandino in Nicaragua, by Carleton Beals

**GROUP 3**

- No. 72 1950 A New Economic Model for Latin America, by Raul Prebisch
- No. 74 1954 Terminating a Revolution in Guatemala--A View from Guatemala, by Luis

Cardoza y Aragon

No. 78 1958 Operation Pan America, by Juscelino Kubitschek

No. 79 1959 Mexico and the Cuban Revolution, by Lazaro Cárdenas

No. 82 1960 Listen, Yankee, by C. Wright Mills

**GROUP 4**

No. 86 1961 The Shark and the Sardines, by Juan Jose Arevalo

No. 87 1962 The Second Declaration of Havana, by Fidel Castro

No. 93 1966 Two, Three, Many Vietnams, by Ernesto "Che" Guevara

No. 95 1967 The Lost Alliance, by Eduardo Frei Montalva

No. 97 1967 Songs of Protest from Latin America, by the First Protest Song Conference

**GROUP 5**

No. 100 1969 The Principles of Economic Development--According to the Dependencistas,  
by Fernando H. Cardoso and Enzo Faletto

No. 102 1972 The Culture of Imperialism, by Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart

No. 134 2002 U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, by the Government of Cuba

No. 137 2006 "The Devil Came Here Yesterday," by Hugo Chávez Frías