

New York University

Course Outline and Reading List
Contemporary Inter-American Relations – Fall 2004
(G10.1004 and G53.2765)

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Course requirements: (1) **Reading:** We will read parts of six books (listed in order of appearance):

1. Peter H. Smith, Talons of the Eagle (New York: Oxford University Press, second edition 2000)
2. Jorge I. Domínguez, ed., The Future of Inter-American Relations (New York and London: Routledge, 2000)
3. Sidney Weintraub, Financial Decision-Making in Mexico (Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000)
4. Vinod K. Aggarwal, Ralph Espach, and Joseph S. Tulchin, eds., The Strategic Dynamics of Latin American Trade (Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2004)
5. Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict (New York: Routledge, 2001)
6. Morris Morley and Chris McGillion, Unfinished Business: America and Cuba after the Cold War, 1989-2001 (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

Reading is assigned for each week, and will be discussed and analyzed in class. Books will be available at the NYU Bookstore and on Reserve (Lower Level 2) in Bobst Library. For some sessions, questions for discussion will be distributed in advance, to focus reading and in-class dialogue. (2) **Research Paper:** A 15-page paper will be due by 4 PM on Tuesday, December 7. Each student must choose, by October 12, a topic that analyzes a significant and researchable aspect of current inter-American relations. A list of suggested subjects will be distributed; other topics may be chosen as alternatives, with the instructor's approval. A sign-up sheet will be distributed in class on October 12; each student should write on a separate subject, to spread the library's research resources. (3) **Oral presentation:** At the sessions between November 2 and 16, each student will make a fifteen-minute oral presentation on her/his subject, setting forth the key elements of the analysis to be presented in the paper. Presentation dates will be assigned immediately after October 12, and a written outline and bibliography for the planned paper will be due for each student on the date of the talk. (4) **Final exam:** A two-hour in-class bluebook

exam will be held at the last scheduled class session, on December 7. In calculating course grades, the paper will be assessed at 50%, the final exam at 35%, and in-class participation at 15%.

Office hours: Professor Mitchell's office hours are Mondays from 2:00 to 4:30 in the afternoon, at 726 Broadway, Room 767; telephone 998-8508. Please communicate by e-mail or phone in advance to reserve a half-hour appointment, or sign up on the list posted on the office door at 726 Broadway. I will also come to the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (just adjacent to our classroom) each Tuesday at 3:15, to be available regularly before class. If Monday or Tuesday afternoons are impossible for you, please consult and we will find a different and workable time.

Section I: Conceptual approaches, history

September 7 – Introduction

September 14 – The history of U.S.-Latin America relations

Reading: Peter Smith, Talons of the Eagle, pp. 1-86, 117-189, 219-248. (Pp. 87-113 are also recommended.)

September 21 – Ideology and pluralism, hegemony vs. multilateralism in inter-American relations

Reading: Jorge I. Domínguez, “The Future of Inter-American Relations: States, Challenges and Likely Responses,” in The Future of Inter-American Relations, pp. 3-34.

Smith, Talons of the Eagle, Chapter 12: “Latin America: In Quest of Alternatives,” pp. 318-352.

Section II: Politics and political economy in Inter-American relations

September 28 – The pursuit of democracy in inter-American relations

Reading: Anita Isaacs, “International Assistance for Democracy: A Cautionary Tale,” in Domínguez, ed., Future of Inter-American Relations, pp. 259-286

Heraldo Muñoz, “Toward a Regime for Advancing Democracy in the Americas,” in Domínguez, ed., Future of Inter-American Relations, pp. 287-299.

“Preliminary Statement of the International Observer Delegation to the May 16, 1994 Dominican Republic Elections,” and “Statement of the NDI/Carter Center Post-Election Delegation to Peru, July 14, 2000,” to be distributed in class.

October 5 – Economic issues, I: Finance and development

Reading: Peter Smith, Talons of the Eagle, pp. 249-283

Sidney Weintraub, Financial Decision-Making in Mexico, pp. 79-173

October 12 – Economic issues, II: Trade and its political implications

Reading: Vinod K. Aggarwal et al., eds., The Strategic Dynamics of Latin American Trade, Chapters 1, 3, 4 (Chapter 5 optional)

(Research paper topics will be chosen October 12)

October 19 – Migration in U.S.-Western Hemisphere relations

Reading: Christopher Mitchell, “The Future of Migration as an Issue in Inter-American Relations,” in Domínguez, ed., pp. 217-236

Rafael Fernández de Castro and Carlos A. Rosales, “Migration Issues: Raising the Stakes in U.S.-Latin American Relations,” in Domínguez, ed., pp. 237-258.

Section III: Organizational initiatives in current inter-American relations

October 26 – The Organization of American States in inter-American politics

Reading:

Carolyn M. Shaw, “Limits to Hegemonic Influence in the Organization of American States” *Latin American Politics and Society*, vol. 45, no. 3. Fall 2003.

Organization of American States, *Inter-American Democratic Charter* (2001) – to be distributed in class

Organization of American States, *Declaration of Quito on Social Development and Democracy, and the Impact of Corruption* (June, 2004) – to be distributed in class

Section IV: Research presentations

Research presentations I – November 2

Research presentations II – November 9

Research presentations III – November 16

Section V: Key nations in current U.S. relations with Latin America

November 23 – U.S.-Mexican relations

Reading: Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict, Introduction and Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 (skim chapters 2 and 6)

November 30 – U.S.-Cuban relations

Reading: Morris Morley and Chris McGillion, Unfinished Business: America and Cuba after the Cold War, 1989-2001, pp. 52-199.

**(Research papers will be due at CLACS by 4 PM December 7 –
Paper copies, please, not sent via e-mail)**

December 7 – Final exam, in class