

New York University

Course Outline and Reading List
Contemporary Inter-American Relations – Fall 2006
(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), plus various shorter readings, some of which are assembled in a coursepack available at the NYU Bookstore:

1. Peter H. Smith, Talons of the Eagle (New York: Oxford University Press, second edition 2000)
2. Coursepack for “Contemporary Inter-American Relations, Fall 2006,” available for purchase at the NYU Bookstore or to be downloaded (at the same charge) on-line
3. Paul Blustein, And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina (New York: Public Affairs, 2005)
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. Marc R. Rosenblum, The Transnational Politics of U.S. Immigration Policy (La Jolla, CA: Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UCSD, 2004)
6. Cynthia McClintock and Fabián Vallas, The United States and Peru: Cooperation at a Cost (New York: Routledge, 2003)
7. Morris Morley and Chris McGillion, eds., Cuba, the United States, and the Post-Cold War World (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2005)

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 20-page paper will be due by 4 PM on Monday, December 11. Each student must choose, by October 16, 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 16; each

student should write on a separate subject, to spread the library's research resources. (3)
Oral presentation: At the sessions between November 6 and 20, 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 16, and a written outline and bibliography for the planned paper will be due for each student on the date of the talk. In calculating course grades, the paper will be assessed at 75%, and in-class participation (*other than* the oral presentation, which will not be graded) at 25%.

Office hours: Professor Mitchell's office hours are Tuesdays from 2:30 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. If Tuesday afternoons are impossible for you, please consult and we will find a different and workable time.

Section I: Conceptual approaches, history

September 11 – Introduction

September 18 – 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 25 – Ideology and pluralism, hegemony vs. multilateralism in inter-American relations

Reading:

Lars Schoultz, Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy toward Latin America (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998), pp. 1-13, 365-386 (plus relevant footnotes, pp. 395-399, 456-459); re-produced in NYU Bookstore Coursepack, and the Schoultz volume will be on reserve in Bobst Library.

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

October 2 – The pursuit of democracy in inter-American relations

Reading:

Anita Isaacs, "International Assistance for Democracy: A Cautionary Tale," in Jorge Domínguez, ed., Future of Inter-American Relations (New York: Routledge, 2000), pp. 259-286; re-produced in NYU Bookstore Coursepack, and the Domínguez volume will be on reserve in Bobst Library.

Santiago A. Cantón and Neil Nevitte, "Domestic electoral Observation: The Practical Lessons," and

Rosario Espinal, "Electoral Observation and Democratization in the Dominican Republic," both in Kevin J. Middlebrook, ed., Electoral Observation and Democratic Transitions in Latin America (La Jolla, CA: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California at San Diego, 1998), pp. 33-52, 93-113. These two chapters are re-produced in the NYU Bookstore Coursepack, and the Middlebrook volume will be on reserve in Bobst Library.

October 9 – Economic issues, I: Finance and development

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

Paul Blustein, And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina, entire

October 16 – 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

Carla A. Hills et al., Free Trade in the Americas: Getting there from Here (Washington, DC: Inter-American Dialogue, 2004), entire

(Research paper topics will be chosen October 16)

October 23 – Migration in U.S.-Western Hemisphere relations

Reading: Marc R. Rosenblum, The Transnational Politics of U.S. Immigration Policy (La Jolla, CA: Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UCSD, 2004), entire

Plus a more recent summary reading, covering the U.S. legislative picture as of Fall 2006 – will be distributed in class

Section III: Organizational initiatives in current inter-American relations

October 30 – 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.

“Responding To The Hemisphere’s Political Challenges” --
Report of The Inter-American Dialogue Task Force on the Organization of American States. June 2006

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

Section IV: Research presentations

Research presentations I – November 6

Research presentations II – November 13

Research presentations III – November 20

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

November 27 – United States relations with Venezuela

Reading:

“Cuba, Venezuela, and the Americas: A Changing Landscape,”
Inter-American Dialogue Working Paper, 2005

Michael Shifter, “In Search of Hugo Chávez,” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2006

December 4 – U.S. and Peru

Reading: Cynthia McClintock and Fabián Vallas, The United States and Peru: Cooperation at a Cost (New York: Routledge, 2003), pp. 1-65, 111-169

December 11 – U.S.-Cuban relations

Reading: Morris Morley and Chris McGillion, eds., Cuba, the United States, and the Post-Cold War World, Chapters 1 and 5.

**Research papers will be due by 4 PM on this date, December 11:
paper copies, please, not sent via e-mail.**

N.B.: This draft syllabus, compiled in late July 2006, might still be changed in minor ways.