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PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

Paul Haber

University of Montana - Missoula, paul.haber@umontana.edu

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Politics of Latin America

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
Political Science Department, course #325
Autumn 2002

office phone: 243-4862
email: haber@selway.umt.edu

Meets: Wednesdays 4:10-6:30
Office hours in LA 355: TR 12:30 - 2:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. Oxford University Press, 2002.
2. Peter Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations*. Oxford University Press, 2001 (Second Edition)

This course is designed to introduce students to the complexity of contemporary Latin America. No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin America. I do, however, assume a willingness on the part of students to work hard in the effort to engage the intricacies and nuances of the region.

Grading: There will be one exam (based on the first book we read, worth 1/3 of your grade) and one ten page paper (based on the second book we read and a series of reserve articles, worth 1/3 of your grade). This paper will be due December 18th. Students will write an approximately five-page typed paper on contemporary issues for one of the seven countries discussed in class between October 2 and October 16. We will determine country assignments early to ensure even distribution and so that students can get started on this assignment. The paper will be due at the end of the class when the country is discussed. Class attendance, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and participation will combine to count for the final 1/6 of your grade.

Students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. All assigned readings must be read carefully and analytically *before* we discuss them in class. Unless otherwise instructed, students should assume the following class assignment: Come to class with a typed question or comment related to the reading. I will regularly ask students to share their question or comment in class discussion. I will collect these at the end of each class. Students may miss one class without explanation. After that, students must bring a typed statement explaining their absence (a phone call or verbal communication is both unnecessary and insufficient). Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you come late, let me know why, and above all, make sure I put you down as not being absent. I regularly communicate with students by email, so if you do not have an address, try to get one soon. Students who do not check their email regularly will miss important information for which you are responsible.

It may well be necessary, from time to time, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class or by email. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact either me or another student to see what has been missed - and then to work hard to make it up by the next class.

September 4	Introduction to the class. No reading.
September 11	Vanden and Prevost, Introduction and chapters 1-3
September 18	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 4-6
September 25	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 7-9
October 2	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 10-11 (Mexico and Guatemala)
October 9	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 12-13 (Cuba and Nicaragua)
October 16	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 14-16 (Argentina, Chile, and Brazil)
October 23	Exam Review
October 30	Exam
November 6	Smith, Part I The Imperial Era
November 13	Smith, Part II The Cold War
November 20	Smith, Part III Age of Uncertainty
November 27	Holiday
December 4	Joseph et. al., pp. 69-104, 208-251, and 311-332
December 11	Joseph et. al., pp. 333-399 and an article from another publication by Elizabeth Cobb