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PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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Politics of Latin America

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
Political Science Department, course #325
Autumn 2001

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Meets: Wednesdays 6:40-9:00
Office hours in LA 355: TR 12:30 - 2:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Robert Gwynne and Cristobal Kay, eds. *Latin America Transformed: Globalization and Modernity*. Oxford University Press, 1999.
2. Peter Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations*. Oxford University Press, 2001 (Second Edition)
3. Susanne Jonas. *Of Centaurs and Doves: Guatemala's Peace Process*. Westview Press, 2000.

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 ¼ of your grade), one ten page paper (based on the second book we read and a series of reserve articles, worth ¼ of your grade), and a series of three short papers (based on the last book we read, worth ¼ of your grade). Class attendance, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and participation will combine to count for the final quarter 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 the class listed below for discussion. 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.

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 the professor or another student to see what has been missed - and then to work hard to make it up by the next class.

Reading Assignments and Exam Schedule:

September 12 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 1-4
September 19 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 5-8
September 26 To be announced
October 3 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 9-12
October 10 Exam #1
October 17 Smith, Part I The Imperial Era
October 24 Smith, Part II The Cold War
October 31, Smith, Part III Age of Uncertainty
November 7 Joseph et. al., pp. 69-104, 208-251, and 311-332
November 14 Joseph et. al., pp. 333-399 and an article from another publication by Elizabeth Cobb
November 21 Holiday
November 28 Papers Due Jonas, Prologue and chapters 1-3
December 5 Jonas, chapters 4-7
December 12 Jonas, chapters 8 - Epilogue