

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
International Affairs 3241/8803: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
 TTh: 1:35-2:50pm – Cherry Emerson Room 204
Dr. Jennie K. Lincoln - Office: Room 144C Habersham
Email: jennie.lincoln@inta.gatech.edu Tel: 404-894-6820
Syllabus – As of January 8, 2013

Course Objectives:

1. To gain area specialty knowledge that provides an understanding of the political context of Latin America
2. To explore U.S. – Latin America foreign policy issues
3. To become familiar with research methodologies for policy issue areas related to career interests regarding Latin America

Course Design:

This course will utilize primary and secondary materials available through the internet and TSquare that will provide students with both background information and current policy issues Latin American politics.

Principal Sources include:

Textbook: (available through Barnes and Noble and Engineer's Book Stores)
 Howard Wiarda and Harvey Kline, eds. *Latin American Politics and Development* – 7th edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011.

www.bbcnews.com (www.bbcmundo.com for Spanish readers)

U.S. Dept of State www.state.gov/p/wha - for U.S. Foreign Policy toward Latin America and country study background from DoS websites noted on the syllabus
 Latin American Network Information Center <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>
 Organization of American States: www.oas.org

Additional articles posted on TSquare.

Course Requirements:

General: Course members will be expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings, and participate in classroom discussions on the subjects addressed in the readings and lectures. Key information will be updated continuously on TSquare. Lectures during the course may not cover the readings and will often present new ideas and information. Students are responsible for the information contained in the reading, whether it is covered or not in lectures, as well as for the information in the lectures and class discussions.

Examinations . A medical or other Georgia Tech approved excuse is the only permissible reason for missing a quiz, the mid-term or final examination.

Class Format: Because of the size of the class, the course will be mostly taught in the lecture format with class discussion/questions/answers. Students are encouraged to raise questions or comments at anytime during the sessions.

***Grading:** A = 90-100; B = 80-99; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60

Class Assignments	10% (5% each x 2)
Blog Postings	
Peer Reviews of Grad Students	
Mid-term	25
Country / Issue Brief	30
Final Examination	25
Attendance/Class Participation	10
	100%

***Graduate students** will be required to present a 15 min version of the assigned research project to the class with power point slides. Topics to be confirmed with Dr. Lincoln NLT Jan 31st.. Presentation dates will be coordinated with the syllabus topics as much as possible.

Course Schedule of Topics/Assignments: [Readings in addition to text are posted regularly on TSquare]– Subject to adjustments, as required.

Week 1 - Jan 8-10 Course Overview / Introduction

January 10 – Inauguration (?) of Pres. Hugo Chavez - Venezuela

January 10 Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 1 – The Context of Latin American Politics

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Week 2 - Jan 15-17 Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 2 – The Pattern of Historical Development

Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 3 – Interest Groups & Political Parties

*Note: Jan 15 – Jury Duty may interfere with class schedule. Notification will be posted in the evening of Monday/Jan 14th if class is to be cancelled. Readings schedule will not be postponed.

Week 3 - Jan 24-26 Tuesday / Jan 22 – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 4 – Government Machinery, the Role of the State , and Public Policy

Thursday / Jan 26 – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 5 – The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America

Week 4 – Jan 29-31 MEXICO - Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 16 – Mexico: Democratization, Development and Internal War by Judith Gentleman

U.S.Dept of State – MEXICO <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/mx/>

<http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/mx>

Jan 31st – Country/Policy Issue Topic Choice Due

Week 5 – Feb 5-7 Tuesday / Feb 5 – MEXICO continued.

Thursday / Feb 7 – NICARAGUA – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 19 – Nicaragua: The Politics of Frustration by Richard Millett

U.S. Dept of State – NICARAGUA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/nu/>

Week 6 – Feb 12-14 Tuesday / Feb 12/ - Nicaragua continued.
 Thursday / Feb 14 Chapter 18 – COSTA RICA by Mitchell Seligson
 U.S. Dept of State – COSTA RICA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/cs/>

Week 7 – Feb 19-21 Tuesday / HONDURAS – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 22 – Honduras: Democracy in Distress by J. Mark Ruhl
 U.S. Dept of State – HONDURAS <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ho/>
 Thursday / PANAMA - Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 23 – Panama: new Politics for a New Millennium? by Steve C. Ropp
 U.S. Dept of State – PANAMA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/pm/>

Week 8 – Feb 26-28 Tuesday: Catch-up / Review
Feb 28 - Thursday Mid-Term Exam [Note: March 15 deadline to drop class with W]

Week 9 – Mar 5-7 Tuesday / Thursday – Wiarda and Kline – Chapter 15 - ECUADOR- From Crisis to Left Turn by Catherine Conagham
 U.S. Dept of State – ECUADOR <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ec/>

Week 10 – Mar 12-14 Tuesday / ARGENTINA – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 6 – Argentina in the Twenty-first Century by Linda Chen
 U.S. Dept of State – ARGENTINA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ar/>

Thursday BRAZIL – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 7 – Brazil’s New Way: The BRIC Road to Progress by Ieda Siqueira Wiarda
 U.S. Dept of State – BRAZIL <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/br/>

Week 11 – Mar 18-22 SPRING BREAK

Week 12 – Mar 26-28 COLOMBIA – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 9 – Colombia: Violence, Resource Wealth, Transnational Forces and a Vibrant Civil Society
 U.S. Dept of State – COLOMBIA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/co/>

Week 13 – Apr 2-4 Tuesday PERU – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 10 – Peru: Authoritarian Traditions, Incomplete Democracy by David Scott Palmer
 U.S. Dept of State – PERU <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/pe/>

April 4 / Thursday Research / Briefing Papers Due.

Week 14 – Apr 9-11 VENEZUELA – Wiarda & Kline – Chapter 11 - Can Democracy Survive Electoral Caudillismo? by David J. Myers
 U.S. Dept of STATE – VENEZUELA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ve/>

Week 15 – Apr 16-18 CUBA – Wiarda & Kline Chapter 17 – Cuba: Development, Revolution, and Decay by Juan M. del Aguila
 U.S. Dept of State – CUBA <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/cu/>

Week 16 – April 23-25 - Graduate Student Presentations and Course Review

Final Exam: Thursday, May 2nd – 2:50-5:40pm

Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday – 3:15-4pm and by appointment.

RESEARCH PROJECT – 30% of total grade

Country Study: Issue Briefing Assignment

Purpose: to prepare a policy overview briefing on a critical issue for the new U.S. Ambassador. Assuming the role of the Political Counselor in the U.S. Embassy [i.e. Country Political Expert], students will prepare a 3 page single-spaced overview brief of one (1) current issue/concern for the incoming U.S. Ambassador. This briefing will inform the Ambassador of the background to the issue, current host country concerns and possible requests for assistance from the U.S. Government (USG). The briefing will also inform the Ambassador of interactions of the host country government on this issue with other nations that may be of interest to the USG.

Be prepared to identify your first and second choices in writing for country/policy issue area no later than class on Thursday, Jan 31st. In order to minimize duplication of effort and to assure hemispheric-wide coverage, there should be no more than 4 students for any one country or topic without approval of exception.

Briefing Papers will be due: Thursday / April 4th

BLOG ASSIGNMENT 5% of total grade

Each student is responsible for posting at least five (5) items to his/her blog that represent additional information on any Latin American subject that may be of broader interest to the class. In addition, each student is responsible for posting at least five (5) comments on another student's blog postings – for a total of 10 postings. A blog tracking report form will be posted on Tsquare and must be submitted by April 19th.

PEER Reviews of Graduate Student Presentations – 5% of total grade

Each student will complete a peer review of the graduate student presentations. Attendance and participation in this exercise is required.