

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**  
**International Affairs 3020 / 8803 JL**  
 TTh: 3:05-4:20pm - Instr Center 117  
**Dr. Jennie K. Lincoln - Office: Room 144C Habersham**  
**Email: jennie.lincoln@inta.gatech.edu Tel: 404-894-6820**

**Syllabus: as of August 19, 2014\***

**Course Objectives:**

1. To gain area specialty knowledge that provides an understanding of the political context of Contemporary Mexico – both domestic and foreign policy.
2. To explore Mexico foreign policy issues – including its special relationship with the United States and Mexico's growing global reach.
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 posted on TSquare that will provide students with both background information and current policy issues in Mexico. .

**Principal Sources include:**

**Required Textbooks:** (available through Barnes and Noble campus bookstore) - Note: BRING books to class.

Emily Edmonds-Poli and David A. Shirk, *Contemporary Mexican Politics – Second Edition*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.

Roderic Al Camp. *MEXICO: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

**Internet sites and sources:**

Woodrow Wilson Mexico Institute: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/mexico-institute>  
 (Mexico Portal)

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

Latin American Network Information Center <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

Organization of American States: [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

### Articles/ Reports/Chapters posted on T Square:

Beittel, June S. “Mexico’s Drug Trafficking Organizations: Source and Scope of the Rising Violence.” U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. April 15, 2013.

Ellis, Evan. “The China-Mexico Strategic Relationship and Its Impact on the U.S.” The Manzella Report. June 2, 2014. < <http://www.manzellareport.com/index.php/world/854-the-china-mexico-strategi>>

Grayson, George. “Mexico: Transborder Crime and Governance.” Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2012.

Issacson, Adam and Maureen Meyer. “Beyond the Border Buildup – Security and Migrants Along the U.S. – Mexican Border.” Washington Office on Latin America. April 2012.

Pastor, Robert. *The North American Idea – A Vision of a Continental Future*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Seekle, Clare Ribando. “Mexico’s 2012 Elections.” U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. July 19, 2012.

Seelke, Clare Ribando and Kristin Finklea. “U.S. – Mexican Security Cooperation: The Mérida Initiative and Beyond.” U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. April 8, 2014.

### 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 out of class assignments	20% (5% each x 4 ) including Blog Postings, Peer Review + 2
Mid-Term Exam	25
Research Project / Issue Brief	20
Final Exam	25
Attendance/Class Participation	10
	100%

\***Graduate students** will be required to present a 20 min version of the assigned research project to the class with power point slides. Topics should be confirmed with Dr. Lincoln NLT Sept 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Office Hours: Tuesday / Thursday – 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment.**

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

## **Part I – Mexican Political Development**

**Week 1 – August 19** Course Overview / Introduction

**August 21** - U.S. Dept of State - Background for MEXICO <http://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/mx/>  
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Preface, Introduction & Chapter 1, “Mexico’s Historical Foundations”  
Camp, Chapter 1 “Security and Violence in Mexico”

**Week 2 - August 26-28**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 2, “The Mexican Revolution and Its Legacy”  
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 3, “Postrevolutionary Mexican Politics, 1940-1968”  
Camp, Part II – Historical Legacies, Chapter 6 “Mexico’s Colonial Heritage”  
Chapter 7 “The National Period and the Rise of Liberal-Conservative Conflicts”  
Chapter 8 “ The Mexican Revolution and a New Political Model for Mexico”

**Week 3 - September 2-4**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 4, “Mexican Democratization, 1968 to the Present”  
Camp, Chapter 9, Mexico’s Democratic Transition

## **Part II – Political Institutions, Culture and Society**

**Week 4 – September 9-11 and**

**Week 5 – September 16-18**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 5 “Government Structure and Processes”  
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 6 “Political Parties and Elections in Mexico”  
Camp, Chapter 10, “Mexico’s Democratic Consolidation”  
Seekle, CRS – “Mexico’s 2012 Elections”

**Week 6 – September 23-25**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 7 “Mexican Political Culture”  
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 8 “Mexican Civil Society”  
Camp, Chapter 3 “Mexico’s Political Development”  
Camp, Chapter 11 “Cultural Economic and Social Developments”

### **Part III – Key Domestic Issues**

#### **Week 7 – September 30 - October 2**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 9 “Mexico’s Political Economy  
Camp, Chapter 2 “Mexico’s Economic Development  
Catch-up and preparation for Mid-Term Exam

#### **Week 8 – October 7 – Mid-Term Exam [Note: Oct 10 deadline to drop class with W]**

**October 9** – Camp, Chapter 1 “ Security and Violence in Mexico” [Review again]  
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 10 “Poverty, Inequality and Social Welfare Policy”

#### **Week 9 – October 14 – Fall Break**

**October 16** - Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 11 “The Rule of Law in Mexico”  
June S. Beittel, “Mexico’s Drug Trafficking Organizations: Source and Scope of the  
Rising Violence.” U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service.  
April 15, 2013.

### **Part IV – Mexican Foreign Relations -**

#### **Week 10 – October 21-23 -** Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 11 “The Rule of Law in Mexico”

June S. Beittel, “Mexico’s Drug Trafficking Organizations: Source and Scope of the  
Rising Violence.” U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service.  
April 15, 2013. <continued>

#### **Week 11 – October 28-30 -** Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 12 “Mexican Foreign Policy”

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 13 “U.S. – Mexico Relations”

#### **Week 12 – November 4-6 -** Adam Isacson and Maureen Meyer. “Beyond the Border Buildup – Security and Migrants Along the U.S. – Mexican Border.” Washington Office on Latin America. April 2012.

George Grayson. “Mexico: Transborder Crime and Governance.” Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions 2012.

#### **Week 13 – November 11-13 –** Seelke and Finklea. “U.S. – Mexican Security Cooperation: The Mérida Initiative and Beyond. U.S. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service.

April 8, 2014.

#### **Week 14 – November 18 -** Robert Pastor. *The North American Idea – A Vision of a Continental Future*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. Chapters 1, 6 & 7.

**November 20 -Research Projects / Issue Briefs due at 3:05pm. No class meeting.**

#### **Week 15 – November 25 - 27 / – THANKSGIVING**

#### **Week 16 – December 4-6 / Graduate Student Presentations and Course Wrap-Up**

#### **Final Exam: Tuesday, December 9 – 11:30am-2:20pm**

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**  
**International Affairs 3241 -Latin American Politics**  
**Dr. Jennie K. Lincoln**

**Issue Brief / Research Project – Due: November 20, 2014**

**\*Submit by email with the following subject line:**

**Last name.First Name – Mexico Issue Brief on \_\_\_\_\_**

**AND**

**Deliver printed copy to Habersham by 3:05pm – November 20, 2014**

**Purpose:** to prepare a briefing on a critical issue in Mexican politics for the new U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

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 (Mexican) concerns and possible impact on U.S. relations with Mexico, including possible requests for assistance from the U.S. Government (USG). The briefing will also inform the Ambassador of interactions of Mexico on this issue with other nations that may be of interest to the USG. Again, this issue brief is to be written from the perspective of a country expert on Mexican politics.

**The Issue Brief should be no less than three (3) single-spaced pages and no more than (4) four pages of text, not counting space for footnotes and bibliography. All issue briefs should have the following components: (hint: use headings) Note: Graduate students will present their briefings with power slides in class. Presentations will be peer reviewed by the class.**

1. **Introduction** to the issue brief that should read as a stand-alone Executive Summary (1/2 page). In other words, if the Ambassador read only the first half-page of the brief, he/she would have a familiarity with the issue and its significance to the U.S.
2. **Background** to the issue (1 page max)
3. **Current conditions** re: issue – including strengths and weaknesses or threats and risks – i.e. why is this issue important to Mexico? (1/2 page)
4. **Analysis:** explain Mexican government actions with regard to the issue – and – identify the significance of the issue for U.S.-Mexican relations. (1-1 ½ pages)
5. **Bibliography** of works cited (not included in page count requirement)

**Guidelines for evaluation of project:**

1. **All ideas that are quoted or referenced must be footnoted. *Plagiarism will not be tolerated.***  
Footnotes or endnotes are required
2. **Grammar / spelling and presentation will be taken into consideration.**
3. **Organization of the study and evidence to support the analysis are critical.**
4. **Note: BOTH footnotes AND a bibliography are required and do not count in the page requirement.**
5. **\*Papers submitted electronically without proper subject & attachment labeling will NOT be accepted. Subject line and attached file should have the SAME label.**
6. **Any questions about the appropriateness of topic selection may be submitted by email to Dr. Lincoln for review - Email: [jennie.lincoln@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:jennie.lincoln@inta.gatech.edu) Topic selection due: Sept 25<sup>th</sup>**