

Latin American Studies 311 - Lecture 01
Critical Contemporary Issues in Latin America
Winter 2014
Lectures TR 14:00-15:15, ST130

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Course Description

Latin America is a vibrant and diverse region that is closely tied to Canada—we share a future. A long history of immigration to Canada along with growing and sizeable investments of Canadian companies in the region ensure that the countries and people of the region have significant ties with us. Recently Latin American companies have begun to invest heavily in our own industrial and resource sectors. Our destinies are linked in far more important ways than just our tourist exploits on the tropical beaches of the region! This course explores Latin America by examining current issues and events that are shaping the region in order to be able to answer the question “what is behind the news”. Using an interdisciplinary perspective, the course combines historical, political, social, and cultural approaches to understand contemporary Latin America.

Objectives of the Course

The student of this course should finish with:

1. An understanding of Latin American from an interdisciplinary perspective
2. An understanding of recent political social and economic developments in the region
3. An understanding of the role US relations play in the region
4. An understanding of the role previously-marginalized groups play in the region
5. An understanding how the social structure of the region is changing
6. The ability to take this knowledge and understanding and apply it as a tool for critical analysis of current events in the region
7. A deeper understanding of the place of Canada in the Americas
8. Honed skills in critical thinking
9. Honed skills in written and verbal communication
10. A strong basis from which to develop a comparative framework for understanding the world (beyond Latin America)

Textbooks and Readings:

Required text

Prevost, Gary and Harry Vanden. *Latin America: An Introduction*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Watch your Blackboard for additional reserved reading found in the library

Assignments and Evaluation

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| 1. WIKI on a Latin American country, due Feb 4 | 10% |
| 2. Mid-term, March 4 | 25% |
| 3. Critical issue in Latin America | |
| a. Group WIKI on critical issue in Latin America, due March 13 | 20% |
| b. Paper on same critical issue (individual), due March 27 | 10% |
| 4. Map quiz, surprise | 5% |
| 5. Take-home final, exam period | 30% |

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: Yes

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

The exam is closed-book.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Grading System

Please note that this grading scale is recommended. If you choose something else, please clearly specify.

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are permitted in class as long as they are used EXCLUSIVELY for note taking. Cell phones should be turned off during class.

The use of electronic devices for extracurricular activities during class will have a direct impact on the participation mark.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs

with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.