

Department: Political Science

Course Number: Political Science 5535

Course Name: Topics in National/Regional Studies (South American Politics/ Central American Politics/ Canada-US-Mexico Border Politics)

Objectives

1. Introduce students to and provide a comparative overview of the countries within the given region. This includes history and culture, the political structure, economics, and international relations with regional entities (namely other Latin American countries and the US).

Outcomes

1. Survey theoretical perspectives and apply them to events within the given region of the world.
2. Students can synthesize the interrelations between important events in Latin American history and global history and the context of these events for today's world.
3. Understand the chief problems, actors, and structures of politics for countries within the given region.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Correct answers to multiple choice and matching questions, and short answer questions on exams. Answers require organized paragraphs, logical thought processes, and application of concepts to given scenarios.
2. Completion of map quiz.
3. In class quizzes over reading material, and in class assignments/activity for simulation/game playing/ etc to understand how governments function: examination of Bureaucratic Authoritarianism, comparison of statistics for regional countries, etc.
4. Final exam consists of two "comprehensive exam style questions"

2. Develop critical thinking, effective speaking and writing skills, foster a global understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, difference and inequality.

Outcomes

1. Students can synthesize the interrelations between important events in Latin American history and global history and the context of these events for today's world.
2. Students can communicate effectively.

Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome:

1. Correct answers to multiple choice and matching questions, and short answer questions on exams. Answers require organized paragraphs, logical thought processes, and application of concepts to given scenarios.
2. Student presentations: each student must present a 20-30 minute lecture over the topic of his/her final paper.
3. Final paper: Students must write a 15-20 page final paper on a specific political issue within the region.
Organization, grammar, and proper citation/bibliography count.