Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00-12:20
Place: Annenberg G21

Professor: Edward Gibson
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4
Office: 210 Scott Hall
Tel.: 491-2629
E-mail: egibson@nwu.edu

Teaching Assistants: Tulia Falleti and Margitta Maetzke

This course will examine the interactions between U.S. foreign policy and Latin American politics. The evolving importance of Latin America in U.S. geo-strategic objectives in the 19th and 20th centuries will be analyzed. The course will also look systematically at how the projection of U.S. power shapes the domestic politics of selected Latin American countries.

Course Requirements:

Formal course requirements include timely reading of assignments and regular attendance at lectures and discussion sections. They will also include a mid-term examination, a pop quiz given during the second half of the term, and a final take-home essay examination of twelve pages.

The reading load will average 100-120 pages per week.

All students are expected to attend class regularly, and to come to class having done the readings. Attending class is important, because lectures will generally not review reading assignments, but will provide additional material and theoretical perspectives that will be important for your exam responses. Timely reading of the assignments is also important for understanding the lectures. I will assume you have done the readings, and will not re-state the background and basic information in them.

The approximate grade distributions for the course will be: mid-term, 40%, final exam, 50%, pop quiz and participation in discussion sections and class, 10%.

The mid-term will be held during the class period of February 7.
The final essay exam will be due on Monday, March 13 at 12:00 p.m. The questions for the final will be posted on our NU Courseinfo web page on March 1, the last day of class.

No exceptions will be made for these exam dates and deadlines, except for documented cases of illness or family crisis. Students seeking an exception must request it from the instructor prior to the exam or paper deadline.

Course books and readings:

The following books are available for purchase from Norris Bookstore:


All other assigned readings will be available electronically, and will be downloadable from a “Courseinfo” web site created specifically for this course. The web site is accessible to all students registered for the course. It will contain information on the course which will be updated regularly, the course syllabus, announcements, and assigned readings. From time to time I will assign additional relevant readings from the press and other sources that come up during the quarter. These will be made available for downloading on the web page. Another feature on the “external links” site that you might find useful is a list of links to newspapers, periodicals, and reference sources related to Latin America.

Be sure to bookmark this site in your browser and check it on a regular basis. If you are unfamiliar with these types of electronic sites, you should familiarize yourself with them as soon as possible.

The direct URL address is: [https://courses.nwu.edu/courses/397029319/](https://courses.nwu.edu/courses/397029319/)

You can also navigate to the site through the main courseinfo site: [http://courses.nwu.edu/](http://courses.nwu.edu/) Then click on the College of Arts and Sciences link, then on Political Science, then on the 343 link to our course.

**Schedule of Classes and Readings:**

January 5: Introduction to the Course

**Readings:**
Peter Smith, *Talons of the Eagle*: Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.


**Readings:**
Peter Smith, *Talons of the Eagle*: Introduction, Chapters 2 and 3.

January 12, 17 (no class, MLK day) and 19: The Rise of an Imperial Power

**Topics:**
The Mexican American War of 1847-48
The Spanish American War
The Panama Canal
Central America under the Hovering Giant
World War II and Latin America

**Readings:**
Peter Smith, *Talons of the Eagle*: Chapter 4.
Walter La Feber, *Inevitable Revolutions*: Introduction and Chap. 2 (pp. 5-85)

January 24, 26, 31, February 2: The U.S. and Latin America in the Cold War

**Readings:**
The Cold War and U.S. policies toward Latin America
Central America in the Cold War
Carter and Reagan: contrasting visions, converging policies

Peter Smith, *Talons of the Eagle*: Chapters 5 through 8.
February 7: MID TERM EXAM

The U.S. and Latin America after the Cold War:

February 9 and 14: Cuba and the United States: The Closest of Enemies

February 16: Latin America and the U.S. in Search of New Frameworks:
U.S. and Latin American Responses to the End of the Cold War
Readings:
Peter Smith, Talons of the Eagle: pp. 219-279.

Readings:
Readings on U.S.-Colombian relations to be assigned

February 23, 28, March 1: Topics in Contemporary U.S. Latin American Relations
Topics:
U.S.-Mexican Relations after the Cold War
Economic Integration in the Americas
Puerto Rico
Readings:
Peter Smith, Talons of the Eagle: Chapter 11.
Jorge Castañeda, "Mexico's Circle of Misery," Foreign Affairs, July/August, 1996 (Courseinfo Web Page).
Readings on U.S. relations with Mercosur (South American Common Market) to be assigned.