

POSC 161: US-Latin American Politics

Section Syllabus

Spring 2019

Department of Political Science, University of California, Riverside

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Office Hours: Thursdays: 3pm - 5pm,
& by appointment

Section Description

Each section is designed to help you understand every bit of the material. I will work hard to help you learn the readings and lecture material each week. This class will cover some very interesting and important historical events in the course of international relations between the US and Latin America.

It's my hope to create a relaxed place for you to safely express your thoughts and opinions about the material and ask questions to clarify any confusions. I'm more than happy to help you, so please reach out. If there are particular aspects of the readings or lecture that you would especially like to cover, either email me and I will be sure to bring it up during our section or you can see me during my office hours.

Section Performance

Evaluation

Your section grade is worth 20% of your overall course grade and will be determined by your attendance (50%) and participation (50%).

Attendance

I know that everyone is taking multiple classes in addition to work and life in general. Sometimes things happen; you get sick, you have an emergency, you are an athlete, or just have another

commitment. In order to avoid the trouble of requiring you get an official note to excuse your absence everyone will be excused from attending class *two times* during the quarter. This doesn't mean that you have two free weeks! This means that if something unexpected happens, you are covered twice!

Expectations for Success

I am here to help you do well in this class but to earn a good grade, you should be prepared to work outside of class. I recommend that you finish all assigned readings *before* the material is lectured on in class. This way, you can prepare questions for class on material that you struggled with or need more clarification. If you do have questions, please reach out to me or Professor Carreras.

In addition to finishing the readings before class, for you to do well it is also important that you attend discussion section ready to participate. In discussion, we will be discussing the course material in more detail and talk at greater length about things that you need clarification on. To get the most out of this, you expected to participate regularly in our discussions (this is also part of your grade).

My goal is to make each section as engaging and interesting as I can. There's nothing worse than a disorganized and boring class! Coming to class ready engage with the material and participate in class will make the class a lot better for everyone!

We're all learning together so speak up, ask questions, and engage with each discussion. If you do so, it will translate to better grades on your exams and papers and a much more enjoyable quarter.

Responsibility

Late Policy

Because it is worth 50% of your grade, I will be taking attendance at the beginning of each class, lame I know but I want to hear your thoughts! Please do not come late to class. Students who are late (or must leave early) should enter/depart the classroom in the least disruptive manner possible. This includes sitting near the door if you anticipate leaving early or taking a seat as near to the door as possible if you arrive late. We're here to learn so lets minimize the distractions.

If you know you have to leave early, or will be arriving late, please send me a quick email to let me know. That way you can still get full credit for attending. If you show up 15 minutes late inexplicably, or randomly leave early, I'll assume that you don't want credit for showing up!

Communication

All important information about our discussion section, grades, and announcements will be communicated via email. As such, please make a habit of regularly checking your email. This is also an important professional skill to learn!

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Tablets

Please refrain from using your cell phones during class. Also, please put your cell phones on vibrate/silent during class.

Using a laptop or tablet for note taking or referencing course material is acceptable, however please do not use them for tasks unrelated to the course. Be mindful that this can easily distract other students. If you cannot follow these instructions, your privileges will be revoked.

Don't poke about on Facebook or whatever else. Class is only 50 minutes, you can do it!

Inclusiveness

In this class I expect all of us to strive to create a classroom environment that supports respectful, critical inquiry through the free exchange of ideas. As part of learning, it is essential to discuss topics with individuals who have different viewpoints than your own and the only way we can better understand one another is if we can carry on a collegial discussion of the topic. Remember, the goal is to become better critical thinkers. To do so, we must learn to listen to others and articulate our views in respectful ways. As such, the following principles will guide our work:

- Treat every member of the class with respect, even if you disagree with their opinion;
- Bring light, not heat;
- Reasonable minds can differ on any number of perspectives, opinions, and conclusions;
- Because constructive disagreement sharpens thinking, deepens understanding, and reveals novel insights, it is not just encouraged, it is expected;
- All viewpoints are welcome;
- No ideas are immune from scrutiny and debate;
- You will not be graded on your opinions;
- Arguments and evidence should be judged *independently* of who offers such arguments and evidence.

Special Accommodations

If you need any sort of special accommodations for this course, please contact the UCR Student Disability Resource Center at <https://sdr.c.ucr.edu>. They will personally work with you to create a tailored plan to ensure that you have everything you need for success.

Integrity

UCR has a detailed and strict academic dishonesty policy. Please take the time to review Section 6 of the Academic Senate Bylaws: http://senate.ucr.edu/bylaws/?action=read_bylaws&code=app#06.

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Infractions, such as failure to adequately cite source materials will lead to a zero on the assignment. Omission, outright copying of materials, or cheating in any form will lead to an F in the course and referral to the Academic Affairs for consideration of dismissal from the University.

University standards for academic integrity apply in this class. You are expected to know and understand the university's policies on this matter and will be held responsible for compliance accordingly. If you have questions about these standards, please consult the Student Code: <https://conduct.ucr.edu>.