**THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

##### International Affairs 3000-002 Special Topics: US-Latin America Relations

Peter H. Smith

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KTCH 122

Spring 2019

##### Guggenheim 206 Mon-Wed 3:00-4:15

This course offers an analytical survey of U.S. relations with Latin America. Historical perspective extends from the 1800s to the present, from the age of Thomas Jefferson to the time of Donald Trump. Coverage will focus on processes of economic integration (including NAFTA RIP), illegal drug trafficking, undocumented migration, environmental protection, and the challenges of “homeland security.”

Course requirements include:

1. regular attendance at class sessions

* Youare allowed 2 unexcused absences during the semester. Excused absences are only allowed with permission of the instructor and must be approved before the class you miss. If you miss class due to an illness, you must provide a doctor’s note within one week. Each additional unexcused absence may result in deductions from your final grade. After 4 unexcused absences, administrative drop from the course may occur, at the instructor’s discretion

2. assigned readings:

* Peter H. Smith, *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States, and the World,* 4th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), and
* Selected documents (identified herein TBA)

3. suggested readings (optional):

* Lars Schoultz, *In Their Own Best Interest: A History of the U.S. Effort to Improve Latin Americans* (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2018)
* Andrew Selee, *Vanishing Frontiers: The Forces Driving Mexico and the United States Together* (New York: Public Affairs, 2018)
* Peter H. Smith and James N. Green, *Modern Latin America*, 9th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018)

**Papers and Examinations**

1. A closed-book midterm exam will take place on **Wednesday, February 27** (this will count for 20 percent of the course grade).
2. Three-page written “policy memos” are due by **Wednesday April 3,** with 10-minute oral presentations in class (to be scheduled in due course, 30 percent of grade)
3. Ten-to-fifteen page analytical papers are due on **Wednesday, April 24** (30 percent).
4. A two-hour written exam will take place during the week of **May 06-10** (TBA) (20 percent).

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PERSPECTIVES AND THEMES**

Jan 14 : Discovery: A Tale of Personal Surprise

Jan 16: Course Design and Requirements

## Reading:

Smith, *Talons,* Introduction

**HISTORY AND POWER**

Jan 21: No Class (MLK Birthday)

Jan 23: Imperialism in the Americas

Jan 28: Latin American Reactions

Jan 30: The Myth of Inevitability

Reading:

Smith, *Talons*, chs. 1-4, Part I (The Imperial Era)

**THE COLD WAR**

Feb 04**:** Cold War in the Americas

Feb 06: What If? Counterfactual Hypotheses

Feb 11: Latin America as Battleground

Feb 13: Life in Uncle Sam’s Backyard

Reading:

Smith, *Talons,* chs. 5-8, Part II (The Cold War)

Feb 18: Video “Missing”

Feb 20: Discussion/The Cold War

Feb 25: Course Review

Feb 27: **MID-TERM EXAM**

**CURRENT ISSUES: TRADE, TERROR, AND TRUMP**

Mar 04: Focusing on Economics

Mar 06: The Washington Consensus

Mar 11: NAFTA and Its Discontents

Mar 13:Discussion/What Is a Policy Memo?

Mar 18:The War on Terror

Mar 20: The New Left and Spectator Politics

Reading:

Smith, *Talons*, chs. 9-12, Part III (Globalization and War)

Mar 25-29: **SPRING BREAK**

Apr 01: Strategies for Latin America

Apr 03:The Political Economy of Drug Trafficking (**POLICY MEMOS DUE**)

Apr 08: Obama, Latin America, and Cuba

Apr 10: Discussion/What Is an Analytical Paper?

Reading:

Smith, *Talons*, chs. 13-14 (Immigration and Drug Trafficking)

Apr 15: Trump and Latin America

Apr 17: Migration, the Wall, and Mexico

Apr 22: Discussion/The Final Exam

Apr 24: Discussion/Outlooks under and after Trump **(PAPERS DUE)**

Apr 29: Mexico: So Far from God, So Close…

May 01: Synthesis and Prognosis

Reading:

Smith, *Talons*, chs. 15-16 (Part IV, Reflections)

**MAY 6-10: FINAL EXAM** (TBA)

# **Accommodation for Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

# **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

# **Honor Code** All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

# **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

# **Religious Holidays**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please give the professor 48 hours of advanced notice for accommodation.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.