

## Course Syllabus

---

### Course Information

HIST 3379. U.S. Relations with Latin America.

Spring 2014.

---

### Professor Contact Information

Stephen G. Rabe

[rabe@utdallas.edu](mailto:rabe@utdallas.edu)

972-883-2009.

Website: [http://www.utdallas.edu/ah/people/faculty\\_detail.php?faculty\\_id=891](http://www.utdallas.edu/ah/people/faculty_detail.php?faculty_id=891)

Office: JO 5.614.

Hours: MW: 11:15-12 noon; M 5:30-6:30.

---

### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None.

---

### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to analyze U.S. relations with Central America, the Caribbean, and South America during the twentieth century and early twenty-first century. By discovering the patterns of the past, we can perhaps understand why the United States has been constantly involved in the internal affairs of such nations as Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela.

The course will examine both the character of U.S. foreign policies and the political and socio-economic structures of Latin American nations. Topics of special interest on U.S. policies will include: U.S. attitudes toward dictatorships and democracies; uses of military and economic aid; the CIA and covert interventions; the role of multinational corporations and international banks; the issue of human rights; legal and illegal migration; the narcotics trade; and the growing influence of Latinos in U.S. society.

In exploring the nature of Latin American societies, we will focus on such topics as: the Hispanic heritage; patterns of economic dependency; the role of the Catholic Church; the appeal of communism and the rise of revolutionary nationalists like the Sandinistas, Fidel Castro, Salvador Allende, and Hugo Chávez; the rise and fall of dictators like Rafael Trujillo, Anastasio Somoza, and Augusto Pinochet; and the resurgence of democracy in Latin America in the twenty-first century.

In addition to discussing and debating the key issues in seminar, we will also be viewing documentary films.

---

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Through lectures, class discussions, readings, and written work, students will improve their reading, writing, and speaking abilities. Students will also have a solid understanding of the history of U.S. relations with Latin America since 1895.

---

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Louis Perez, *The War of 1898*.

Jason Colby, *The Business of Empire: United Fruit, Race, and U.S. Expansion in Central America*.

Jon Lee Anderson, *Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life*.

Stephen G. Rabe, *The Killing Zone: The United States Wages Cold War in Latin America*.

Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*.

Shannon K. O'Neill, *Two Nations Divisible: Mexico, the United States, and the Road Ahead*.

### **Suggested Course Materials**

None

---

### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

#### **I. The Sphere of Influence (1895-1945) (January 13 to February 12)**

Topics to be analyzed include: the Monroe Doctrine; cultural stereotypes; the war of 1898; the Platt Amendment; the Panama Canal; the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine; the Mexican Revolution; the "Banana Wars;" the Sandino movement; and the Good Neighbor Policy.

Reading Assignments:

Perez, all.

Colby, all.

#### **II. The Cold War (1945-1989) (February 17 to April 9)**

Topics to be analyzed include: the doctrine of containment; the U.S. intervention in Guatemala; the Cuban Revolution and the rise of Fidel Castro; the Alliance for Progress; Cold War interventions in Brazil and British Guiana; the invasion of the Dominican Republic; the

overthrow of Salvador Allende of Chile; the human rights movement; the Panama Canal Treaties; the Sandinista movement; and the Reagan Doctrine and mercenary wars in Central America.

Reading Assignments:

Anderson, all.

Rabe, all.

Danner, all.

### III. Post-Cold War Era (1989-2013) (April 14 to May 1)

Topics to be analyzed include: NAFTA and other hemispheric free trade agreements; the invasion of Panama; intervention in Venezuela; the illegal narcotics trade; immigration; the democracy movement; international human rights, and globalization.

Reading Assignments:

O'Neill, all.

### REQUIREMENTS:

Examination #1: March 5

Examination #2 May 1

Perez Paper February 11

Colby Paper February 19

Anderson Paper March 19

Danner Paper April 2

Rabe Paper April 14

### **Grading Policy**

All students must take the *two* (2) examinations and submit *three* (3) of the *five* (5) assigned papers. Assignments are given equal weight (20 percent) for grading purposes. Students will not receive credit for the course unless they complete the five assignments on time.

Examinations will be taken in class on the assigned date. There are no “make-up” examinations.

All papers must be delivered in class on the assigned days in “hard-copy” form. The instructor will not accept papers as EMAIL attachments.

In order to receive credit for the course, students must also attend class regularly.

---

**Course & Instructor Policies**

The instructor gives the highest priority to class attendance. Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class activities. HIST 3379 is not a correspondence course. Students will not receive credit for the course, unless they attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken at each class. Attendance is MANDATORY.

University policy on classes can be found at: <http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>