

SEC 6333 Security Issues in Latin America II

Course Description/Overview

This course is designed to introduce the student to the history, socio-economic and political of contemporary security issues in Latin America. It discusses the on-going legacy of the colonial and Cold War periods and how it shapes crime, corruption, poverty, inequality, injustice, guerilla insurgency and drug violence that ravages many of the region’s countries. By the end of the class the student should gain a keen understanding of the history and context that shapes the region’s chronic insecurity.

Course Textbooks/Daily Reviews

Required Texts: All required readings are listed below and in the weekly instructional narratives

Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda (eds), Latin American Politics and Development 9th edition (New York: Routledge, 2018) <https://www.amazon.com/Latin-American-Politics-Development-Harvey-ebook/dp/B07CMDNX1T>

Optional but Strongly Recommended Reading

Tina Rosenberg, Children of Cain: Violence and the Violent in Latin America (New York: Penguin Books, 1991) <https://www.amazon.com/Children-Cain-Violence-Violent-America/dp/0140172548>

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- To understand how Spanish and Portuguese colonialism shapes the contemporary context of political insecurity and violence in Latin America
- To comprehend the enduring legacy of the Cold War and American political and military intervention on Latin America’s security problems
- To apprehend the social, political and economic roots of political insecurity, corruption and drug related violence in Latin America

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due Date and Requirements
Engaged participation (discussion)	20%	Weekly. There are no discussion questions for the weeks with the midterm powerpoint presentation and

		the final essay exam.
Midterm Essay	30%	Due Sunday ending Week 3. The midterm 8-10 pages
PowerPoint Presentation	20%	Due by Sunday ending Week 5. The PowerPoint presentation is approximately 8-10 slides in length. Any late assignments will be graded accordingly.
Final Exam	30%	Due Tuesday of Week 8. The final essay exam is approximately 10-12 pages in length. Any late assignments will be graded accordingly. The topics for the final essay exam will be posted in BlackBoard on the Monday of Lesson 6.

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

- A = 90 – 100 %
- B = 80 – 89 %
- C = 70 – 79 %
- D = 60 – 69 %
- F = 59 % and below.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1: History and Context of Latin American Security Issues

The first lesson of the class provides an overview of the Spanish and Portuguese colonization of Latin America, the struggle for regional independence and the structure of political, economic and socio-cultural power in Latin America. Among some of the issues analyzed are the impact of colonization, the enduring legacy of the Cold War on regional political stability and the challenge of globalization.

Course Text Assignments

Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda, Introduction, Chapter 1-7 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Other Readings

“Latin America and the Caribbean: US Policy and Issues in 116th Congress” *CRS Report* (September 2020)

Douglas Farah, Terrorist-Criminal Pipelines and Criminalized States: Emerging Alliances” *Prism* 3:3 (2011)

Douglas Farah and Kathryn Babineau, “Extra-Regional Actors in Latin America: America’s is Not

the Only Game in Town” *Prism* 8:10 96-113 (2019)

David Luhnou, Jose De Cordoba and Nick Casey, “The Cult of the Caudillo” *Wall Street Journal* (2016)

Jasmin Chicas, “The Legacy of the Cold War Hovers over the Battlefields of Latin America Council of Hemispheric Affairs (2018)

R. Evan Ellis, “Chinese Organized Crime in Latin America” *Prism* 4:1 (2012)

Lesson 2: South America: Argentina, Brazil and Chile

The course’s second lesson provides an overview of Argentine, Brazilian and Chilean political and economic development based on colonial histories, the struggle for independence, the legacy of Cold War conflicts and the impact of globalization. Among some of the issues discussed are the rise of political dictatorships, military rule, human rights abuses and twin challenges of democratization and economic globalization.

Course Text Assignments

Linda Chen. Argentina The Economic Tango Continues pages 103-122 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Brita H. Crandall, Brazil the Politics of Elite Rule pages 123-140 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Peter M. Siavelis, Chile from Democracy to Dictatorship and Back pages 141-168 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Rosenberg, Chapter 2 The Good Sailor

Rosenberg, Chapter 6 The Pig’s Tail

Other Readings

“The Use of Terrorist Tools by Criminal Organizations: Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) *Perspectives on Terrorism* 14:4 (2020)

Ioan Grillo, “Brazil’s Police Struggle to Pacify Gang Run Slums” *CTC Sentinel* (August 2014)

Matthew Levitt, Iranian- Hezbollah Operations in South America: Then and Now *Prism* 5:4 (2015)

Lesson 3: South America: Colombia, Venezuela and Peru

The third lesson focuses on Colombian, Venezuelan and Peruvian political and economic development from the prism of colonial histories, the struggle for independence, the legacy of the Cold War and the impact of globalization. Among some of the topics discussed are civil war, dictatorship, narco-violence, communist insurgency and the twin challenges of democratization and economic globalization.

Course Texts Assignments

Harvey Kline, Colombia: Is Guerrilla Violence Near its End? Pages 169-194 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

David J. Myers, Venezuela: Political Decay and the Struggle for Regime Legitimacy pages 217-244 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Julio F. Carrion and David Scott Palmer, Peru: Overcoming the Authoritarian Legacy at Last pages 195-216 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Rosenberg, Chapter 1 Quijote

Rosenberg, Chapter3 Dialectic

Other Readings

David Spencer, “Security Challenges of the New Colombian Administration” *Prism* 8: 1 (2019) 82-

95

Stephen Zech, “Drugs and Trafficking Terrorism and Civilian Self-Defense in Peru” *CTC Sentinel* 18:2 (April 2014)

“Calming the Restless Pacific: Violence and Crime on Colombia’s Coast” *International Crisis Group* 8 August 2019

Ross Dayton, “Maduro’s Revolutionary Guards: The Rise of Para Militarism in Venezuela” *CTC Sentinel* 12:17 August 2019 26-31

Maximilian Hess, Russia in Venezuela: Geopolitical Boon or Economic Misadventure” *FPRI Report* 2019

Juan S. Gonzalez, “The Venezuelan Crisis and Salvador Allendes Glasses” *Prism* 8:1 (2019) 68-81

Lesson 4: Central America: Panama, Costa Rico and Nicaragua

Lesson four deals with Panamanian, Costa Rican and Nicaraguan political and economic development based upon colonial histories, national independence struggles, American military intervention and the twin challenges of democratization and globalization. Among some of the issues analyzed are dictatorships, military rule, human rights abuses, communist insurgency, crime and corruption.

Course Text Assignments

Orlando J. Perez, “Panama: Political Culture and the Struggle to Build Democracy” pages 435-448 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Robert L Millet, “Nicaragua: An Uncertain Future” pages 383-394 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Mitchell A. Seligson, “Costa Rica” pages 369-382 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Rosenberg, Chapter 5 The Triumph

Lesson 5: Central America’s Northern Triangle: Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras

The fifth week concentrates on Guatemalan, El Salvadoran and Honduran political and economic development based upon colonial histories, national independence struggles, the impact of the Cold War, and the twin challenges of democratization and economic globalization. Among some of the issues discussed are civil wars, military rule, poverty, social injustice, death squads, corruption, gangs and drug warfare.

Course Texts

Michael E. Allison, “Guatemala: Breaking Free from the Past” pages 411-422 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

J. Mark Ruhr, “Honduras: Democracy in Peril” pages 423-434 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Christine J. Wade, “El Salvador: From Civil War to Uncivil Peace” pages 393-410 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Rosenberg, Chapter 4 The Laboratory

Other Readings

Douglas Farah and Kathern Babineau, “The Evolution of MS-13 in El Salvador and Honduras” *Prism* 7:1 (2017)

“Miracle or Mirage: Gangs and Gang Violence in El Salvador” *Latin American Report* 81 (July 2020)

Daniel M. Sabet, “When Corruption Funds the Political System: A Case Study of Honduras” *Wilson Center Latin America Program* (August 2020)

Lesson 6: The Caribbean: Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti

The sixth week centers upon Cuban, Dominican and Haitian political and economic development based upon colonial histories, independence struggles, American military interventions, the Cold War struggles, revolution, and the twin struggles of democratization and economic globalization. Among some of the topics discussed are crime, poverty, communist insurgency, dictatorship, revolutionary states, economic underdevelopment and narco-violence.

Course Text Assignments

Juan M. del Aguila, Frank O. Mora, and Brian Fonseca, “Cuba: Revolution in the Balance” pages 345-368 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Lilian Bobea, “The Dominican Republic: Democracy, Still a Work in Progress” pages 449-464 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Georges A.. Fauriol, “Haiti: Searching for Democratic Governance” pages 465-476 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Lesson 7: Mexico

The seventh lesson focuses upon Mexican political and economic development from the prism of colonial history, independence struggles, relations with the United States and the twin challenges of democratization and economic globalization. Among some of the issues discussed are the Mexican Revolution, the dominance of one- party rule, corruption, crime and drug cartel directed violence and terrorism.

Course Texts Assignments

Jose Luis Velasco, “Mexico: Democratization and Violence” pages 319-344 in *Latin American Politics and Development*

Lesson 8: Conclusion and Assessment

The final week of the class features a final exam designed to realize the core objectives of the class.

Other Readings

Brian Phillips, “Terrorist Tactics by Criminal Organizations: The Mexican Case” *Perspectives on Terrorism* 12:1 (2018)

Phillip Luke Johnson, “The Crime and State Terrorism Nexus: How Organized Crime Appropriates Counterinsurgency Violence” *Perspectives on Terrorism* 13:6 (2019)

Mary Speck, “Great Expectations in Amlo’s Mexico” *Prism* 8:1 (2019) 68-81

Ion Grillo, “Mexico’s Vigilante Militias Rout the Knights Templar Drug Cartel” *CTC Sentinel* 14:7 (April 2014)

Celina Realuyo, “Countering the Evolution of the Drug Trade in the Americas” *Wilson Center Mexico Institute* (January 2020)

Communication

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.