Syllabus

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO: LATIN AMERICA AND THE US - 29346

Last update 15-02-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Dept. of Romance and Latin American Studies

Academic year: 2

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Claudia Kedar

Coordinator Email: claudia@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30, or upon appointment

Teaching Staff:
Claudia Kedar
Course/Module description:

This course provides a chronological survey of U.S.-Latin American relations from the Monroe Doctrine to the Cold War. The course looks at US-Latin American dynamic ties as relations between equally active (albeit unequal in power) partners. It focuses on hemispheric patterns as well as on specific case studies in bilateral relations (such as the US relations with Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela). It analyzes key issues in the area of diplomacy, economy and trade, security, and migration. Finally, it analyzes the anti-Americanism in Latin America in its political, social, and cultural expressions.

Course/Module aims:

Through the reading of primary and secondary sources, we will learn about key issues of the intricate US-Latin American relations. We will examine the evolution of the mutual ties between the parties by focusing on political and economic conflicts. The course aspires to reach a deep understanding of inter-American relations avoiding dichotomist and "blaming" approaches.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Explain historical events and key issues in US-Latin American relations.
2. Combine the study of US's and Latin American history.
3. Examine US-Latin American relations from a multi-disciplinary approach that combines history, political sciences, international relations, and diplomacy.
4. Collect primary and secondary sources to serve as base for historical research.
5. Assess the level of agency of the US and Latin America in this relationship.
6. Recognize and understand the prejudices that shape the inter-American system.
7. For the students that are writing a seminar – to conduct independent research and demonstrate academic skills.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: A combination of frontal teaching with joint analysis of primary and secondary sources, and open debate on reading materials

Course/Module Content:

1) Conceptualization: imperialism, colonialism, informal imperialism. The starting point: Monroe Doctrine.
2) The Manifest Destiny
3-4) Texas annexation (1845) and the Mexican-US War (1846-1848)
5-6) Spain-US War: Cuba's independence, Teller Amendment and Platt Amendment
7-8) Big-Stick Policy and the Venezuelan Blockade
9) Founding a nation – building a canal: Panama or Nicaragua?
10) From the Good Neighbor Policy to the end of WWII
11-12) The Cuban Revolution and its impact on US-Latin American relations
13) Anti-americanism in Latin America
14) Conclusions

Required Reading:
1) Monroe Doctrine (1823)


3-4) -The Texas Declaration of Independence: March 2, 1836
-Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) - Brief Version
-Teller and Platt Amendments.

9) TBA
Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart, "The Culture of Imperialism (or How to Read Donald Duck?)" in Holden and Zolov, Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History, pp. 272-273.
Additional Reading Material:
- Fidel Castro, "Second Declaration of Havana" (1962)
- Salvador Allende, "Speech to the United Nations" (4 December 1972)

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 90 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Only 2nd year students (BA) are eligible to write a seminar paper within the framework of this course