

PSCI 4280 – Inter American Relations

Fall 2009

T-TH 11:30-12:45

AS 310

Office Hours

TTH 10:00-11:00/ W 10:00 – 1:00

And by Appointment

Dr. Jonathan Benjamin Alvarado

275L Arts and Sciences Hall

402 554 4859

jalvarado@unomaha.edu

PSCI 4280: Inter American Politics. This course analyzes the role of Latin American states in the international political arena. Emphasis upon developing, applying and testing an explanatory theory of international politics through the study of the inter American system and its history: the regional, institutional and ideological environment, power relations, policies and contemporary problems. (This course fulfills the department's international politics requirement). *Prereq:* For PSCI 4280; junior. (Cross listed with PSCI 8286.)

Services and make their requests for information, contact Disability Services (EAB)

554 2872, TTY: 554

3799) or go to the website: www.unomaha.edu/disability.

Course requirements:

- (1) **Readings:** We will be reading all or parts of three books and reports (see below), plus various shorter readings,

Paul Blustein. *And the Money Kept Rolling In: The World Bank, Wall Street, The IMF and the Bankrupting of Argentina.* (New York: Public Affairs, 2005). (UNO Bookstore).

Peter H. Smith. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States and the World.* (New York: Oxford

(4) **Course grades:** The breakdown for the course grade is as follows:

a. In class discussion/participation	10 percent
b. Research paper	50 percent
c. Research proposal	25 percent
d. Written outline and bibliography	5 percent
e. Research presentation	10 percent

Course Ground Rules

- Late assignments are not acceptable. They are a burden to me and are unfair to your colleagues who do their work on time. Therefore, I will deduct ½ of a letter grade for each day an assignment is late. Extensions may be given but only if they are requested well in advance of the deadline, and there is a compelling reason.
- It is not my practice to give incompletes for this course. If there is a compelling rationale for an incomplete subject to my approval and supported with appropriate documentation, an exception to the “no incompletes” rule may be possible.
- With respect to these first two ground rules, if you have problems in completing your assigned work, please let me know about it sooner than later.
- Plagiarism and copying will not be tolerated. Any student turning in a written assignment which is not your own work will receive a failing grade for work follows:

participate) Second, follow the instructions! Pay close attention to what is being said and what is being required of you. Third, turn your work in on time. Rather than schedule school around your life, the successful student is mindful of scheduling life around school. Following these three rules usually equates with the successful

Lecture: How To Write a Research Proposal

October 6/8 – Social Deficits, Poverty and Inequality

Reading: Huber, "The New Left Versus Neoliberalism in Latin America" in Bland, et al.; Larson, "Democratic Progress Or Peril: Indigenous and Popular Mobilization in Bolivia," in Bland, et al.; and Chirinos, Civil Society and Successful Accountability in Peru, in Bland, et al.; Kurtz and Brooks, "Embedding Neoliberal Reform in Latin America".

October 13/15 – Economic Issues 1: Finance and Development

Reading: Smith, Ch. 7. Hills, "Free Trade in the Americas"; Blustein, Ch. 15.

Assignment: Choose Topics Day

October 20/22 – Economic Issues 2: Trade and its Political Implications

**Class will not meet on October 20th – Fall Break

Reading: Blustein, Ch. 6-10.

October 27/29 – Enter The Dragon: The Question of China

Reading: Gallagher, "China Matters"

November 24/26 – Research Presentations II (5)

**No class meeting on November 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1/3 – Research Presentations III (5)

**No class meeting on December 3 – Instructor will be in California.

December 8/10 – Research Presentations IV (10)

Assignment: Research Paper Due, December 10th, No Later than 4pm.