COURSE OUTLINE
POL S 334 (LEC A1) – NORTH AMERICAN POLITICS
FALL 2016
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 2 - 3:20 PM
TORY BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 105

Instructor: Julián Castro-Rea
Available Tuesday, 11 AM – 1 PM, or by appointment.
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Main objective:

Study North America’s unity and diversity from a comparative perspective. Explore the bases of this continent’s formal economic integration and the challenges it poses, assessing current trends toward interdependence, deeper integration, asymmetry and hegemony.

Course prerequisites: POL S 230, 240 or 260; or consent of instructor.

Students without the course prerequisite should talk to the instructor before registering. At the request of the instructor, the Department may cancel their registration if they have failed to do so and they do not have the required course prerequisites.

Grading:

The course requirements are outlined below. Policy about course outlines, grading and related matters can be found in Section 23.4 (2) of the University Calendar. In all but exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4 (3) of the University Calendar. All requirements will be assigned a partial grade in percentage points, the final grade will be expressed with a letter. The instructor will not ‘curve’ or adjust final grades according to any preset formula.

Attendance to class 10%
Attendance is important so the class may become an engaged community of inquiry, to better understand the links between the readings, and to better know and cooperatively work with people in the cohort. Readings and online components of the course cannot fully replace physical presence in class.
Participation in class 10%
The quality (not quantity) of participation in and contribution to class discussions matters. It will be considered for assigning a percentage grading, at the instructor's discretion.

Two minor assignments 20% (10% each)
Assignments will consist in answering one question, or series of short questions, in essay format; within one week from the day they are requested. Length: two to four pages per assignment. Minor assignments will be requested on September 27 (due in class on October 4) and November 15 (due in class on November 22). Only hard copies will be accepted, no electronic submissions will be considered. Late submissions will be penalized 1% of the final grade (not the assignment grade) per day, including weekends.

Mid-term exam (October 11) 20%
Sit-down exam.

Final exam (due December 13) 40%
Take-home exam, covering material (lectures, readings and screenings) from the whole term. Questions will be distributed on the last day of classes (December 6). Only hard copies will be accepted, no electronic submissions will be considered. Late submissions will be penalized 5% of the final grade (not the exam grade) per day, including weekends.

Attendance, assignments and missed grade components:

As explained, regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in this course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify the instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult section 23.3 (1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences may result in partial or total loss of the grade for the "Attendance to class" and "Participation in class" components of this course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Readings:

Most required readings are included in a textbook: Castro-Rea, Julián, ed., Our North America: Social and Political Issues beyond NAFTA, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012. Copies of the textbook are available at the SUB Bookstore; as well as at the bookstore's used book section at a discounted price. The textbook can also be purchased online and in e-book format.

All remaining required readings are available at the university-managed Google Drive. An invitation to access them will be sent to all registered students.

All readings listed in this course outline are mandatory, their contents will be incorporated into the assignments, mid-term and final exams.
Schedule:

September 1: Presentation of the course.

September 6, 8.
1. Introduction: What is North America.
Readings:

September 13, 15.
2. Unity in North America. How closeness has determined the historical development of North America. Mexico has always been part of North America.
Readings:

September 20, 22, 27.
3. Diversity in North America’s political institutions: the same words name different realities.
Readings:

September 27: First assignment requested, to be submitted in class October 4 at 2 PM.

September 29, October 4, 6.
Readings:

October 11: Mid-term exam.

October 13, 18, 20, 25.
5. North America under NAFTA: the official agenda (government relations, consolidation of US hegemony, the failed Mexico-Canada strategic alliance).
Readings:

October 27; November 1, 3, 15.
6. Beyond governments and business: social relations in North America; including class, race, migration, democracy, identities, crime.
Readings:
- Russell, J. W., Class and Race Formation...; pp. 119-150.
- Velasco, José Luis, Insurgency, Authoritarianism and Drug Trafficking in Mexico’s ‘Democratization’, New York: Routledge, 2005; pp. 89-121.

November 8, 10: Fall term reading week.
November 15: Second assignment requested, to be submitted in class November 22, at 2 PM.

November 17, 22, 24.
7. September 11, 2001 and beyond: deep integration, convergence, homogenization or what?
Readings:

November 29; December 1, 6.
Readings:

December 6: Final exam questions are distributed.

December 13: Final exam due at the Department of Political Science office (Tory Building, 10th Floor, Room 16), no later than 4 PM
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (available online at http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. An important excerpt from the Code of Student Behaviour is appended at the end of this course outline. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the “Student Conduct and Accountability” website (http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx) regarding the definitions of plagiarism and its consequences when detected. Students seeking the advice of English native speakers or experts should be aware that excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour with dire consequences. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of Students at the Faculty of Arts.

LATE PENALTIES

It is your responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as it becomes clear that your work will be late. If there is no valid reason for late submission, supported by written evidence, then you should be prepared to be penalized 1% of the final grade per late day for assignments, 5% of the final grade for the final exam. Please note: these percentages apply to the final grade, not to the assignment or exam grade. Weekends are also considered for late day purposes.

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. If students feel that this policy is being violated, they are urged to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern, or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department of Political Science.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/) Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures
can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 (available at http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/)

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT & DISABILITY SERVICES:

Students with disabilities or special needs that might interfere with their performance should contact the professor at the beginning of the course with the appropriate documentation. Every effort will be made to accommodate such students, but in all cases prior arrangements must be made to ensure that any special needs can be met in a timely fashion and in such a way that the rest of the class is not put at an unfair disadvantage. Students requiring special support or services should be registered with the office of Student Accessibility Services (http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/). This is particularly important for students requiring special exam arrangements. Once they are registered with SAS, it the student’s responsibility to provide the instructor with a "Letter of Introduction" and, if necessary, an "Exam Instruction & Authorization" form.

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?):

The Peer Support Centre is there to listen, offer support, supply information and provide services:

- Call: (780) 492-HELP
- Book an appointment: (780) 492-4268
- E-mail: psc@su.ualberta.ca
- Drop in: 2-707, Student Union Building, during hours of operation (Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 8:00pm)
- Visit: http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/
AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFICE

NOTE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PARTICIPATION, CREATING MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS

University/College or Government website or Fire/Co. Information/News Update/Website ca.gov/news/newsticker/SpecialReports.cem

Updated to reflect the most current and concise
PROPOSED CHANGES

Dr. Carl Q. Liwan

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure recommends the following changes to the current policy:

1. The term "academic freedom" should be expanded to include the freedom to engage in research and scholarship.

2. The definition of "tenure" should be revised to include the right to a salary commensurate with one's rank.

3. The committee should review and ratify all appointments to faculty positions.

4. The process for tenure decisions should be made more transparent.

Please note that these recommendations are provisional and require further discussion and modification.

Dr. Frank C. Anderson
Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

For Review with Each Class at the Beginning of Every Term

Update dates and reviews in the form of a new update.