The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Problems in International Relations: Inter-American Politics

Course Number:  
PSC 5550-222

Course Description:  
This course is designed to introduce students to the patterns of economic, political, and security relationships which characterize the Inter-American system. We will be examining how the countries of Latin America have interacted with one another and with the historical hegemonic power in the region, the United States. We will also be exploring the rise of new actors, such as China and Iran, that have changed the dynamic of hemispheric foreign relations in recent years.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:  
Dates: October 20-25, 2015  
Location: Aviano AB, Italy. Classroom location to be determined.  
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: September 21, 2015

Site Director:  
TBA. Phone 39-0434-30-5977; DSN: 6322-5977. E-mail: apaviano@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:  
Course Professor: Jeffrey J. Ryan, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: Department of Political Science  
Old Main 428  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Telephone Number: (479) 575-3356  
Fax Number: (479) 575-6432  
E-mail Address: Jeffrey.J.Ryan-1@ou.edu or jeffr@uark.edu  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:  
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bksstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: The readings will be a combination of academic articles relating to the subjects we are covering as well as contemporaneous news and original source materials that provide real-time context for our discussions. Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

Course Objectives:
The course objective is to familiarize students with both the historical background and recent transformations that have shaped the dynamics of the Inter-American system. A part of this process will be providing students the conceptual and theoretical tools needed to effectively analyze the foreign policy-making process in developing and emerging states. Specific objectives include:

1. To introduce students to the historical background of US-Latin American relations
2. To examine transformations in the Inter-American system in the post-Cold War era
3. To analyze the foreign policy making process in large states (e.g., Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, etc.) vs. small ones (e.g., Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Uruguay, etc.)
4. To discuss how emerging economic powerhouses such as Brazil are transforming hemispheric relations
5. To investigate the role of new actors in the region such as China and Iran and analyze the likely impact that will have on the future evolution of the Inter-American system.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Pre-Class Assignment: (30%)
As is customary in many AP courses, students will be expected to complete a substantial amount of reading as well as a written assignment prior to the onset of classes. You are strongly encouraged to begin working on this course several weeks before our first meeting, since as you know better than most, work schedules can fluctuate wildly and unpredictably. The pre-class assignment is due no later than the beginning of the second day of classes. (Important: Unless the student submits this assignment at least 72 hours before the first class period, it is unlikely that the instructor will be able to provide feedback until after the course has ended.) Work submitted after the deadline may be progressively downgraded.

Specifics regarding the pre-class reading and writing assignments will be available at the D2L site for this course approximately one month before the first class meeting. As noted above, if you need help accessing the D2L system, contact your Site Manager promptly, since D2L will be the chief portal through which all course-related activity will pass. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete the assignment by the second day of classes. The completed pre-class assignment should be sent to the D2L drop-box using the file name protocol and file format specified in the assignment guidelines.

In-Class Presentation (20%)
On the last day of class, everyone will be required to give a presentation. The specific guidelines for the presentations will be provided in class, but the general theme will revolve around a Latin American perspective on a particular facet of international relations/foreign policy. The length of the presentation will be roughly 15 minutes, though this may vary depending on class enrollment size. You will be free to use whatever delivery format you feel most comfortable with, including a presentation that does not feature PowerPoint if you prefer. By all means, you are welcome to use PowerPoint if you like, but also feel free to speak extemporaneously, write on the board, use sock puppets, perform an interpretive dance, etc., if the spirit moves you.
Post-Class Assignment: (40%)

There will be a final written assignment due two weeks after the final class, November 8, 2015, which like its pre-class counterpart, should be sent to the drop-box at the D2L course site. Also like that first written assignment, details regarding the post-class work will be discussed in class/posted to D2L and should use the same file name protocol, but designate the assignment number as 2.

For both pieces of written work (indeed, for any written work), it is crucial that you appropriately cite any and all sources for material that is not your own. Any of the predominantly used academic citation styles are acceptable, including use of a reference page, footnotes/endnotes, etc. What is categorically not acceptable is a failure to adhere to proper citation requirements. If you are at all unclear regarding citation standards, it is imperative that you familiarize yourself with such standards before submitting any written work.

Participation (10%)

Students are expected to participate during class discussions. Questions are always encouraged and your perspective on an issue is very welcome. Class discussions will clearly be greatly enhanced if everyone has done the assigned reading for that period prior to class, so you are strongly encouraged to do so.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Course grades will be based on two written assignments (pre-class and post-class), an in class simulation, and overall class participation according to the following weighting scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Grade Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Throughout the course</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Class Assignment</td>
<td>No later than second day of class</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>TBA (8 hours)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Seminar Assignment</td>
<td>2 weeks after last day of class, November 8, 2015</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Jeffrey J. Ryan, Ph.D.

Education
- 1989  Ph. D., Political Science, Rice University
- 1987  M.A., Political Science, Rice University
- 1983  B.A., Technical Journalism, Colorado State University

Current Positions
Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (1990-present)

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- PSC 5550 Inter-American Politics
- PSC 5683 Politics in Latin America

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Political violence, revolution, terrorism, guerrilla warfare
- Political institutions, parties and party systems, electoral turnout, anti-immigrant voting
- Decentralization, municipal reform, local government

Teaching Awards
- Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship (2011)
- Fulbright College Master Teacher Award (1996)

Representative Publications

Representative Presentations
- “Simulación como una herramienta para el aprendizaje activo: Notas de una prueba. [In-Class Simulation as a Tool for Active Learning: Notes from an Experiment.]” Invited speaker, VII Conferencia Anual de la Red INPAE, Mexico City, Mexico. (2011)