**Syllabus**

**US-Latin American Relations**

**Laney Community College**

**Paul Bolick-Mausisa**

**Course Description:**

This course will discuss the relationships, exchanges, and tensions among the people and nations of the Western Hemisphere. The focus is more specifically on the connecting points between the United States of America and Latin America. Students will examine US foreign policies with Latin America and how it has affected Latin American economies, demographics, culture and politics. In order to fully understand the complexity of US-Latin American relations, this course will have a historical approach, but will also have special emphasis on contemporary issues throughout the semester.

**Text Reading:**

Smith, Peter. *Talons of the eagle: Latin America, the United States, and the World,* 3rd Edition. Oxford, 2008.

Menchu, Rigoberta. *I Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala.* Verso 1984.

**Assignments and Grading**

1) Project credit (20%): There will be at least one assigned small group project. For group projects you will participate in a team, choose a specific topic, research that topic and give a class presentation.

2) Mid-term (30%) and Final (30%) will be either multiple choice, short answer or take-home essay or a combination of the three. Mid-term and Final will be based primarily on lecture material, class and small group discussions, assigned readings and documentaries shown in class.

3) Class participation (10%): Students must participate in class discussions to receive this credit. Discussions will be based primarily on lecture material, assigned readings and documentaries shown in class. Class participation will also be calculated based on class attendance.

4) Handout on Novel (10%) Must turn in handout and participate in class discussion to receive full credit.

**Objectives Stated as Learning Outcomes:**

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

1)Demonstrate their understanding of specific terms and concepts important to Latin American and U.S. Relations.

2)Demonstrate their understanding of racial, ethnic, class, gender and social diversity in Latin America.

3)Demonstrate their understanding of the history of US policy in Latin America, including: Colonization; Imperialism; Expansion; Intervention; Cold War; War on Drugs; and Globalization.

4)Demonstrate their understanding of Latin American responses to US policy, including: Cooperation and Accommodation; Resistance, Rebellion and Revolution.

5)Demonstrate their understanding of Latin American immigration to the US and Latino communities in the US.

Students will be required to:

1) Recognize and analyze problems: to think critically and ask questions; to synthesize diverse information from texts and primary resources; and express ideas clearly and logically.

2) Write coherent paragraphs with clear main ideas and supporting details.

3) Work in groups and complete assigned projects using primary and secondary historical documents.

**Attendance**:

Regular prompt attendance in class is very important for your success in this class. Missing class and patterns of tardiness will effect the calculation of your grade. If you miss 4 classes you will not receive class participation points (10pnts). If you miss 5 or more classes you will not receive higher than a C grade in the class regardless of the final calculation of your grade.

**Make up Policy:**

You must have a legitimate excuse in order to make up the midterm and final, ie, being sick, car accident or family emergency.

**Late Policy:**

Assigned projects must be turned in at the beginning of class on assigned due dates! Late papers will be deducted a half grade. For every day thereafter, a half grade will continue to be deducted from your paper. Instructor does not accept assignments turned-in by e-mail.

**Withdrawal Policy**

If you wish to drop this class you must do so using the college enrolment system. Students will not be automatically dropped for missing class. Failure to drop in a timely manner may result in an F in the class.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism and heavy paraphrasing will not be tolerated. Students who plagiarize or heavily paraphrase may be subject to academic discipline or college expulsion.

**Other Behavioral Standards**

Students are expected to arrive on time.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Students must turn cell phones off during class.

***Do not text during class!!!***

\*This is a no computer/labtop class. You must take notes by freehand or by using an audio recorder. However, computers and labtops can be used during preparation for your group presentations.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with verified disabilities have the right to receive reasonable academic adjustments in order to create an educational environment where they have equal access to instruction. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible if you need certain academic adjustments.

**Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:**

*\*The Lecture Schedule is an approximation and is subject to change.*

*\*Additional reading handouts may be distributed during class.*

**Part 1 -Indigenous Peoples, Colonization and Independence**

Week 1: Sept. 10-12

Topic: Review Syllabus/Introduction to course

Readings: Begin Reading *Rigoberta Menchu:* Smith Introduction

Week 2. Sept 17-19

Topic: Indigenous people/Colonization/LA Independence

Readings: Smith Chp1

Video: *500 Nations*

**Part 2 -US Expansion**

Week 3: Sept 24-26

Topic: Mexican-American War

Readings: Smith Chp 2

Video: *US-Mexican War*

***\*\*\*Assign Presentation Groups\*\*\****

Week 4: Oct 1-3

Topic: Spanish-American War

Readings: Smith Chp 3

Video: *Spanish American War*

**Part 3 -1900s to The Cold War**

Week 5: Oct 8-10

Topic: Early Intervention

Readings: Smith Chp 4

***\*\*\*Finish Rigoberta Menchu\*\*\****

***\*\*\*MidTerm Study Guide\*\*\****

Week 6: Oct 15-17

Topic: WWII-Good Neighbor Policy

Readings: Smith Chp 5

***\*\*\*MidTerm\*\*\****

Week 7: Oct 22-24

Topic: Cold War

Readings: Smith Chp 6

Week 8: Oct 29-31

Topic: Cuba

Readings: Smith Chp 7

Video: *Fidel*

Week 9: Nov 5-7

***\*\*\*Presentations\*\*\****

Week 10: Nov 12-14

***\*\*\*Presentations\*\*\****

Week 11: Nov 19-21

Topic: Cuba

Readings: Smith Chp 8

Video: *Maestra*

**Part 4- Current Issues**

Week 12: Nov 26-28

Topic: Central America

Readings: Smith Chp 9

Video: *Maria’s Story*

Week 13: Dec 3-5

Topic: South America

Readings: Smith Chp 10

**\*\*\*Final Study Guide\*\*\***

Week: 14 Dec 10-12

Topic War on Drugs

Video: *Plan Columbia*

***\*\*\*Finals\*\*\****