

**Graduate School of International Policy & Management**

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**IPSG 8647: Managing US-Mexico Relations**

***Fall 2013***

Instructor: Dr. William Arrocha

Date/Time: Wednesdays 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm

Classroom: Morse A203

Contact: Office Telephone: 647-4163

Email: william.arrocha@miis.edu

Course Credits: 4.000

Office Location: Casa Fuente 300H

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 10:30am-11:30am and 2:30pm-3:30pm

Thursdays: 10:30am-11:30am and 2:30pm-3:30pm

**Please request an appointment prior to coming during my office hours as I do not have an appointment list attached to my door. If you cannot make it during my office hours please request an appointment off office hours.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The United States and Mexico share one of the longest borders in the world; they also have one of the most complex bilateral relationships yet, it is one that is not always understood and explored adequately. In this seminar students will be exposed to the key historical events that have shaped the present relationship. They will explore the similarities and differences of a relationship that makes it one of the toughest to manage. Students will explore the key aspects that make up a bilateral agenda that can be considered one of the most challenging in international policy: An uneasy past, constant immigration pressures, drug trafficking, trade issues, environmental problems and new security challenges.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this seminar is to expose students to the key historical events that have shaped the present relationship. They will explore the similarities and differences of a relationship that makes it one of the toughest to manage. Students will explore the key aspects that make up a bilateral agenda that can be considered one of the most challenging in international policy: An uneasy past, constant immigration pressures, drug trafficking, trade issues, environmental problems and new security challenges.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Robert A. Pastor and Jorge Castañeda (1989*). Limits of Friendship: The United States and Mexico*, Vintage Books. ISBN-13: 9780679725435

Tony Payan and Ed Williams (2006). *The Three U.S.-Mexico Border Wars*, Greenwood Publishing Group, Incorporated. ISBN-13: 9780275988180

Sidney Weintraub (2010). *Unequal Partners: The United States and Mexico*, University of Pittsburgh Press. ISBN-13: 9780822960584

Peter Smith and Andrew Selee (eds.) (2013). *Mexico and the United States: The Politics of Partnership*, Lynne Reiner. ISBN-13: 9281588268938

METHODOLOGY AND POLICIES

The Seminar will start by a set of historical, political and diplomatic readings led by the professor on the nature of the bilateral relationship. Such discussions will be followed by student presentations on key issues presented in the syllabus. The seminar will be organized by lectures, one-page reading reviews, team presentations based on weekly topics, and a team final project. The lectures follow the structure of the syllabus, the required reading and other materials that the professor may deem necessary. If needed, additional readings will be put on reserve, handed out in class or posted electronically. If the lecture has a slide presentation it will be posted electronically.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

All students will be held to all policies and procedures listed in the most current Policies and Standards Manual (PSM).  This includes but is not limited to our Student Honor Code and regulations on plagiarism.  A complete copy of the Policies and Standards Manual (PSM) can be found here: (<http://www.miis.edu/media/view/23925/original/policy_and_standards_manual_update.pdf>)

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

**Evaluation of assignments and participation:**

Your writing assignments and participation in class discussions will be graded according to the following criteria:

A Excellent: Insightful contribution reflecting close reading and a balance between depth and breadth

B Good – very good: Useful contributions that help advance the discussion

C Average: Contribution that is superficial and/or perfunctory

D Below Average: Unhelpful, unconstructive or contribution and/or minimal participation

F Failure: Contribution that indicates a failure to read or no participation

**Assessment for grades**

Participation 10%

One-page reading reviews 25%

Presentation in class 30%

Final Paper 35%

**Presentations in class:**

There will be presentations given by two-member teams (we might make adjustments depending on total number of course students). Presentations need to be posted on Moodle at least ***two days*** prior to presentation in class. The professor will need a hard copy of the presentation the day of the presentation. The presentations will include the following:

1. Introduction of issue and organization of presentation
2. History of issue (s)
3. Key actors (state, private and non-governmental)
4. Policy Analysis
5. Three Policy recommendations
6. A short and very clear conclusion outlining the best policy recommendation to follow
7. Presentations can include videos and other supportive materials.

**Writing Assignments:**

Two types of writing assignments will be required for the seminar:

1. Six one-page reading reviews of required readings (weekly book chapters). For Castaneda/Pastor the one-page reading review should include the two perspectives.
2. Two member teams or individual Final Projects in the form of a Policy Paper or Research Paper.

**One-page reviews of required readings**

The one-page reviews are based on six required readings of your choice throughout the term. However, the reviews must be submitted to the professor’s email on the day they are to be discussed in class. You will of course be expected to have read all required readings before class whether or not you submit a short review for that week.

**Final Project:**

The final project can have two formats: a Policy Paper or a Research Paper for which you can choose any topic pertaining to US-Mexico relations. Make sure you consult with the professor for ideas and research comments. The due date for the final project is Monday December 16 at Midnight via the professor’s email as a Word document (do not send it in PDF format).

**Editorial rules:**

**For reading reviews**

* Your name and date
* Title of book chapter to be reviewed
* Name of author
* Bullets with key points from chapter
* A short paragraph with personal opinion on the issue being reviewed
* Font: Times New Roman
* Font size: 12
* Spacing: 1.5

**Common editorial rules for both the Research and the White Paper**

* Individual papers: Between 4000 and 5000 words not including Footnotes/Endnotes, Bibliography and Appendixes (Place word count at the end of main body of text)
* Team papers: Between 5000 and 6000 words not including Footnotes/Endnotes, Bibliography and Appendixes (Place word count at the end of main body of text)
* Font: Times New Roman
* Font size: 12
* Spacing: 1.5
* Page numbers
* Word count at the end of main body of paper
* A cover page with title, name and date
* A numbered table of Content
* A minimum of 10 primary sources
* ***Explicitly*** acknowledge other authors ideas (direct quotation marks for quote or Footnotes or End Notes for data or ideas) (see “Academic Conduct”)
* At least ten sources (Primary, secondary and analytical)
* A Bibliography
* **Not following ALL these requirements will result in a lower grade.**

**Other editorial rules**

**For Research Papers**

* **Chicago Manual of Style**
* A one paragraph Abstract on a separate page (between 50 and 100 words)
* Introduction
* Sections
* Conclusion

**For White Papers**

1. A one page Executive Summary that includes three policy recommendations,
2. A Background section,
3. An Analytical section,
4. Three policy recommendations,
5. A two paragraph Conclusion that presents the best policy alternative

**Other rules of engagement:**

1. In this class, it is fundamental that we respect our cultures, languages and any other individual or collective differences. Therefore, it is ***strictly******prohibited*** to refer to another nation, culture or language in a derogatory manner. The former also applies to differences in ethnic backgrounds, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion as well as social origin or any other status.
2. The use of laptops, ipads, smartphones, or any other electronic device and its software should be **only** to take class notes or to support class discussions. Therefore, it is ***strictly prohibited*** to use such equipment for any other use other than the stated above.
3. If a student is to arrive late to class, she or he should advice the professor in advance. If this is not possible, when the session has started the student ***must*** wait until the break period to enter the classroom.

Letter Grade Scale

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A  /4.00 = 95-100 points | B+/3.33  = 87-89 points | B-  /2.67 = 80-82 points |
| A -/3.67 = 90-94 points | B   /3.00 = 83-86 points | Cs =as B’s (within 70-79) |

Grades will be awarded with plus and minus designations when the student’s numerical score is in the very top or bottom end of the grade ranges described above. As noted in the [PSM](http://www.miis.edu/offices/records/policies), quality points are assigned as follows:

A and A+ 4.00 grade points per credit.

A- (minus) 3.67

B+ (plus) 3.33

B 3.00

B- 2.67

C+ 2.33

C 2.00

C- 1.67

D+ 1.33

D 1.00

D- 0.67

F (Fail) 0.00

P (Pass) Credit for course, no grade points.

NP (No Pass) No grade points or credit.

I (Incomplete) No grade points or credit.

W (Withdrawal with permission) No grade points or credit.

AU (Audit) No grade points or credit.

IP (In Progress) No grade points or credit.

There is no other system of grading or grading category at the Monterey Institute other than those listed above.

Except for grades of “I’ and “IP,”(***see sections 5.3 and 5.4 in*** [***Policies and Standards Manual***](http://www.miis.edu/offices/records/policies) ) all grades are considered final when reported by a faculty member at the end of a semester or marking period. A change of grade may be requested **only** when a calculation, clerical, administrative, or recording error is discovered in the original assignment of a course grade or when a decision is made by a faculty member to change the grade as a result of the disputed academic evaluation procedure (***see section 5.2 in*** [***Policies and Standard Manual***](http://www.miis.edu/offices/records/policies)). Grade changes necessitated by calculation, clerical, administrative, or recording error must be reported within a period of six months from the time the grade is awarded. **No grade may be changed as the result of a reevaluation of a student’s work or the submission of supplemental work** following the close of a semester or marking period. The Records Office shall only accept permissible changes of grade upon written approval of the faculty member’s dean, who shall first verify that the Change of Grade request satisfies legitimate criteria.

SCHEDULE AND WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

August 28 Introduction to seminar

**The limits and reaches of US Mexico Relations**

September 4 Uneasy past and differences that matter

Robert A. Pastor and Jorge Castañeda, Introduction and Part I

September 11 Two different worldviews

Robert A. Pastor and Jorge Castañeda, Part II

September 18 Tightening economic ties: Closing or increasing the economic gap?

Robert A. Pastor and Jorge, Part III and Sidney Weintraub, chapters 1 to 3 and Smith and Selee, chapter 5.

September 25 Managing key issues of an unequal partnership

Sidney Weintraub, chapters 4 to 6 and Smith and Selee, chapter 1, 3 and 4.

October 2 The border: So close and yet so far

Robert A. Pastor and Jorge Castañeda, Part IV (Except chapter 9 which will be used for the last class) and Sidney Weintraub, chapter 7

**A border in chaos**

October 9 Three issues of urgency: drugs, immigration and the environment

Tony Payan, Ed Williams, chapters 1 to 3 and Smith and Selee, chapters 6, 7 and 8.

October 16 New demands for US homeland security: Bringing back walls as boundaries

Tony Payan, Ed Williams, chapter 4 to 5

**Class presentations: Key Bilateral Issues (although these are guideline questions, they can be adjusted to your research interest)**

October 23 A polluted border: Can it be cleaned up?

October 30 Undocumented migration: A bilateral quagmire or a mutual advantage?

November 6 Illegal drug trafficking: A ‘war on drugs’ or a bilateral health issue?

November 13 The politics of Oil and Gas: partners or competitors?

November 20 Militarization of the border: How much is too much?

**November 27 – December 1 Thanksgiving Break**

December 4 NAFTA: A new partnership or the deepening of Mexico’s economic dependency on US capital?

December 11 After 9/11/2001: Strengthening the friendship or ending a honeymoon?