Government 94Q
U.S.-Latin American Relations

Purpose: A study of relations between the United States and Latin American countries and of the international relations of Latin America. Attention is also given to foreign policy decision-making in the United States and Latin America and to alternative approaches to the study of international relations and foreign policy. The course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in any Department. It is a discussion course; active student participation is necessary for learning.

Type: This is a Government Department course that also meets the General Education requirement for the United States in the World. Enrollment is limited to 16 students. There are no formal course prerequisites.

Enrollment. First, the Government Department Undergraduate Office conducts a lottery among Gov concentrators, with results posted by September 1 to select 8 students. All Gov concentrators thus admitted to the course should attend class on Tuesday September 5. Then, I conduct a second lottery for all eligible students (Gov and non-Gov) for the other 8 slots, and email all those admitted to the course immediately after the first class on September 5.

Common readings, class participation, and lectures: You are expected to read up to 200 pages a week. More reading is assigned for some weeks. At times you will decide what to read and what to omit within the 200-page rule; for other weeks, you will get specific assignments. Discussion in class will be based on the readings for each week. There will be no lectures.

Writing Requirements: Every student will write four short papers in advance of the class discussion for which the paper is pertinent. A short paper means a double-spaced typescript 7-8 pages (type size 12, times roman font). Collaborative discussion is encouraged; collaborative paper writing is prohibited: you must be the sole intellectual author of each and every paper. Specify the particular topic. You must write your papers on different topics during the semester drawn from the Week topics in the syllabus. No additional research is needed for these papers beyond the common readings assigned for class discussions. In writing the paper for a particular week, you are free to use items read for previous weeks that are pertinent to the new discussion.

Deadlines: You set your own deadlines within a range specified below. You must turn in your paper in advance of the class discussion for any week within a range. For example, a short paper is due by Week 3; you may turn in your paper before class discussion starts on September 12, 19, or 26 but must do so no later than the start of discussion on September 26 and always prior to the class discussion on your chosen topic. Paper 1 is due by September 26; paper 2 by October 17; paper 3 by November 7; and paper 4 by November 28.

Grading: Class participation counts for 20% and each short paper for 20% of the course grade.
Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 11-12, or by appointment. Email jorge_dominguez@harvard.edu is best to reach me. Ordinarily I have lunch at Leverett House on Wednesdays and hope you join me. My office phone: 617-495-5982. Please do not call my home on business -- thank you.

POLICY ON COLLABORATION: Students are encouraged to engage in conversations with each other and with the professor about their work in this course including topics for papers. This course values the exploration of intellectual ideas through respectful discussion. However, all paper assignments and examinations must represent the student’s own work. Students must always take care to distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other people or sources. **Collaboration in the completion of paper assignments and examinations is always prohibited.**