

Chic/Lat 164  
W 02

Instructor: Patricia Hamm  
Class Schedule/Room: MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m., SSL 145  
Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 MW and by appointment

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Contemporary U.S.-Mexican Relations  
Chic/Lat 164  
(same as Political Science 145B)  
University of California Irvine  
Winter 2002

**Course Description:** This course applies various theoretical concepts, such as interdependence and state- and society-based explanations, to analyze the asymmetric U.S.-Mexican relationship and the unprecedented levels of bilateral cooperation and institutionalization of inter-government affairs taking place since the early 1990s. It pays close attention to the "special relationship" in the Bush-Fox era beginning in 2000 and the impact of the war on terrorism on bilateral relations. This course examines current issues on the agenda such as trade, immigration, national security, and border and narcotics controls. Emphasizes interplay of domestic politics (role of Mexican Americans) and foreign policy.

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the analytical and empirical interpretation of the contemporary dynamics of the bilateral relationship and the main issues on the agenda.

**Instructor's Philosophy:** A main concern of the instructor is to get each student to participate actively in the educational process. The instructor facilitates active and productive learning by: (1) encouraging students to think critically, intellectually, and rationally; (2) engaging students in required or voluntary activities such as individual presentations, small-group discussions, researching and discussing alternative sources of information, and making policy recommendations; (3) using visual props (maps, films, pictures, etc.); and (4) facilitating different ways for students to demonstrate participation and understanding of lecture/reading materials and related current events.

**Course Requirements:** Students are responsible for all assigned readings/handouts and active class involvement in discussions and other activities. Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to take a midterm and final exam (short identification/essay questions). They are also required to write a policy memorandum (10 double-spaced pages) due in class. In addition, they are responsible for monitoring daily news on US-Mexican relations and periodically presenting to the class news bits and own analyses of issues. Occasionally, quizzes may be given.

**Course Grade:** The final course grade is based on the following criteria: (1) midterm 25%; (2) final exam 25%; (3) policy memorandum 30% (4) news reports, quizzes, and class assignments 10%; and (5) active participation in class and attendance 10%. At the discretion of the instructor—and only under documented special circumstances—will a grade of Incomplete (I) or No Report (NR) be given to a student.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** will not be tolerated. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating may result in an F in the course and other disciplinary consequences, including such campus wide sanctions as suspension and dismissal. Please refer to the *Schedule of Classes* for a clear understanding of the meaning of, and the penalties for, academic dishonesty. **No activated cell phones or pagers will be allowed in classroom.** Activated cell phones or pagers will be temporarily confiscated at the discretion of the instructor.

**Required Readings:** Weekly readings are assigned from the course textbook and supplemental assignments. The textbook is *The United States and Mexico: Between Partnership and Conflict* by Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro (2001). Additional readings will be available in Main Library Reserve. Readings marked “internet” may be downloaded also by students. Periodically, other reading materials may be handed out in class. Reading assignments are obligatory, unless marked as “optional.” and are to be completed prior to the meeting of class.

### Course Weekly Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Jan. 4 Introduction**

**Readings:** -Reserve/Internet. <http://www-irps.ucsd.edu/irps/speeches/spfeinberg>  
“The Mexican Presidential Elections: Implications for U.S.-Mexican Relations,” speech by Richard Feinberg (date 7/12/00)  
-Reserve/Internet. <http://whitehouse.von/news/releases/2001/09>  
“Joint Statement between the United States of America and the United Mexican States (9/6/01), press release. White House.  
Reserve/Internet-newspaper articles. <http://www.washingtonpost.com>  
-“On Colombia, Washington Listens to Fox,” special to [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (9/4/01)  
-“After September 11, a Friendship in Recovery” by Marcela Sánchez, special to [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) (11/22/01)  
-“U.S. Informs Mexico on Migration Plan” by George Gedda (11/21/01) in [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)  
-Optional-Internet. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/bgn/index.cfm>  
“Background Note: Mexico Profile,” U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (April 2001)

- Week 1:** **A New Era: Bilateral Cooperation, Bush-Fox “special relations” and the September 11 Attacks on the United States**  
**Jan. 7-11**  
**Friday 1/11** **Guest Speaker:** David Ayón, “The Impact of the New U.S. National Security Mentality on U.S.-Mexican Relations”  
**Readings:** -Preface, Introduction, Ch. I-II in Domínguez and Fernández de Castro
- Week 2:** **Binational Consulting Mechanisms: Domestic Context for Foreign Policy Decision-making & Content and Conduct of Foreign Policy**  
**Jan. 14-18**  
**Readings:** -Ch. V and VI in Domínguez and Fernández de Castro.  
-Reserve: “Congress and Mexico” by Pastor and Fernández de Castro (1998)
- Week 3:** **Focus and Perspectives on the Study of the Bilateral Relationship: Interdependence, institutional- state- and society-based explanations**  
**Jan. 23-25**  
**Mon. 1/21** **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – no class**  
**Readings:** -Reserve. On interdependence: “Theoretical Considerations of Institutions and Institution Creation” (in “Emerging Cooperation: Case of the NAFTA Commissions”) by Fernández de Castro and Ibarguen (1998)  
-Reserve: “Mexico’s New Foreign Policy: States, Societies, and Institutions” by Domínguez (1997).
- Week 4:** **Mexico’s New Diplomacy in Washington**  
**Jan. 28-Feb. 1**  
**Readings:** -Reserve: “Mexico’s Foreign Policy after NAFTA: The Tools of Interdependence” by Chabat (1997).  
-Reserve: “The Rise of the Mexico Lobby in Washington: Even Further from God, and Even Closer to the United States” by Eisenstadt (1997)  
-Reserve/Internet-newspaper article: <http://www.washingtonpost.com> “Mexico’s New Players,” Special to washingtonpost.com (8/8/01).
- Week 5:** **Diaspora Politics and U.S.-Mexican Relations: Mexico’s New Relationship with its Diaspora**  
**Feb. 4-8**  
**Readings:** -Reserve/course e-mailing list: “The Diaspora as a Strategic Actor in U.S.-México Relations” and “Side-Payments to the Mexican Diaspora” by Hamm (2001).  
-Reserve: “Decentralized Diplomacy: The Role of Consular Offices in Mexico’s Relations with its Diaspora” by González Gutiérrez (1997).
- Week 6:** **Trade and International Institutions: NAFTA and Beyond**  
**Feb. 11-15**  
**Feb. 11** **Midterm exam**  
**Readings:** -Ch. IV in Domínguez and Fernández de Castro (2001).  
-Reserve: “Prospects for NAFTA and Beyond: Toward a Free-Trade Area of the Americas?” by Smith (2000).

**Week 7: Security Issues: Narcotics Controls**

**Feb. 18-22**

**Feb. 18 President's Day Holiday – no class**

**Readings:** -Ch. III in Domínguez and Fernández de Castro.  
-Reserve: "America's Drug Problem and Its Policy of Denial" by Falco (1998).  
- Reserve. "The Escalation of Drug Control" by Andreas (2000).  
Optional-Reserve: (makes policy recommendations) *Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The United States, Mexico and the Agony of National Security* by Schulz (2000: v-vi, 1-7, 17-33).

**Week 8: Migration Issues: Unilateral and Bilateral Approaches and the Impact of September 11 Attacks**

**Feb. 25-28**

**Readings:** -Ch. VII in Domínguez and Fernández de Castro  
Reserve/Internet. <http://www.iadialog.org/immigrat>  
-"Mexico-U.S. Migration" by Martin (1998).  
-"The Mexican Government's Position on Migration: From Non-engagement to an Active Search for a New Understanding. Is it Worth it?" by Fernández de Castro (1998)

**Week 9: Security Issues: Border/Migration Controls and The Impact of September 11 Attacks**

**Mar. 4-8**

**Mar. 8 Policy memorandum due in class**

**Readings:** -Reserve. "Creating the Clandestine Side of the Border Economy," "The Escalation of Immigration Control," and "Borders Restated" by Andreas (2000).  
-handout. "Mexico Seeks Shared Border Security Plan" by James F. Smith, *Los Angeles Times* (11/19/01, A4)  
-Optional-Reserve/Internet. <http://www.nationalpost.com/search/story>  
"Ottawa Targets Illegal Immigrants" in *National Post* (Canada) by Sheldon Alberts (date 12/11/01).

**Week 10: U.S.-Mexican Relations in Historical Perspective**

**Mar. 11-15 Guest Speaker: TBA**

**Readings:** -Reserve: Ch. 1-8 in Vázquez and Meyer (1985)

**Finals Week: Final Exam**

**Mar. 20 Wed. 8:00-10:00 a.m.**