

University of Mississippi  
Croft Institute for International Studies

**INST 314: The War on Drugs in Latin America**

Instructor: **Oliver Dinius**  
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Office Hours: **M 4:30-5:30pm** and **F 10-11am**

**Fall Semester 2009**  
**M, W, 3:00-4:15 pm**  
**Croft 204**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines how the ‘War on Drugs’ has affected Latin America. It places the recent efforts at drug interdiction in the context of the history of drug production, consumption and trade and uses readings from the fields of sociology, economics, political science, and public policy to illuminate the challenges this ‘war’ presents for Latin American societies and U.S.-Latin American relations.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will gain an understanding of the complex impact that drugs and the war on drugs have had on the recent economic, social, and political development of Latin America. They will acquire the knowledge necessary to critically assess policy options for governments in Latin America and the United States that might help reverse some of the violence, social disintegration, and political instability observed in recent years.

Completing the core requirement for the class, a 15-page research paper, students will strengthen their research skills, practice their analytical abilities, and learn to write a paper that fulfills the standards of scholarly writing and documentation. Students will also practice public speaking when they present their research on the final project in a PowerPoint presentation. Over the course of the semester, students will learn supplementary skills such as summarizing chapters of academic books, responding to scholarly arguments, and critiquing the work of peers.

**PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites. No previous knowledge of Latin America history is assumed. All course materials are in English. Knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese is not required.

**GRADING**

1) Short Assignments on Readings	10 %
2) Two Book Essays @ 10% each	20 %
3) Discussion Leading	5 %
4) Participation	15 %
5) Midterm Exam	15 %
6) PowerPoint Presentation (Final Project)	10 %
7) Research Paper (Final Project)	25 %

For the final grade, 900 to 1000 points are an ‘A’, 800-899 a ‘B’, 700-799 a ‘C’, 600-699 a ‘D’, and less than 600 points an ‘F’.

International studies majors should take note that no grade lower than "C" may be counted towards the major.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**Midterm Exam:** The exam covers the material from the first half of the course. It will include essays and identifications. The midterm will be given on Wednesday, October 14.

(NOTE: There will be no make-up quizzes or exams other than in cases of medical emergencies *documented with a doctor's note*.)

**Short Responses:** Students will complete several short assignments (response papers, chapter summaries) focused on the readings. These assignments will help to prepare class discussion.

**Book Essays:** Students will write essays on the books by Paul Gootenberg and by Peter Gay. The instructor will hand out questions/topics for these papers. These book essays have to be between 1400 and 1600 words in length (12-font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all four sides).

**Discussion Leading:** Each student will serve as discussion leader once over the course of the semester. The discussion leader's role is to initiate the class discussion about the readings. The discussion leader will need a very thorough grasp of the material and s/he will prepare a set questions/points that can start (or restart) class discussion of the relevant issues. The instructor will of course share in the burden of guiding the discussion.

**Research Paper:** Students will write a 15-page research paper on a specific aspect of the war on drugs in Latin America. You choose a topic in consultation with the instructor. It needs to have a strong Latin American dimension; projects focusing exclusively on U.S. foreign policy will not be approved. You will choose the topic in the first week of October, submit a bibliography in the third week of October, present your research to the class in November (PowerPoint), and submit the final research paper in early December. **The 15-page minimum refers *exclusively* to the text of the paper** (double-spaced, 12 font, 1-inch margins). The required footnotes, illustrations (tables or graphs), and works cited page do not count towards the page minimum. You are encouraged but not required to use foreign language sources for the project.

**Participation:** Counts for 15% of the grade. This is a discussion-based class that will require solid class preparation and active student participation to be successful. You do have to contribute regularly to class discussion!! Simply being in class does not earn you participation credit.

**Attendance Policy:** Student participation is essential and class attendance required. In keeping with the general attendance policy for honors courses, students with more than two *unexcused* absences will lose half a letter grade for each additional *unexcused* absence. Students with more than six *unexcused* absences will receive an automatic F for the class. Absences due to *documented* emergencies will be considered *excused* (i.e., do not count towards these thresholds).

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is essential to all the values upon which the university is founded. Croft and Honors students must therefore embody academic honesty in all aspects of their work. A student with a documented case of plagiarism or academic cheating in an honors course will face the possibility of receiving the grade of F for the course and being dismissed from the program. Specific consequences of such behavior will be determined by the individual faculty member and the administration.

## READINGS

The required books are available for purchase at the Ole Miss Bookstore and on reserve at the Williams Library. Other readings will be available as electronic reserves on BlackBoard.

### Required Books

**Scott H. Decker and Margaret Townsend Chapman.** *Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling: Lessons from the Inside.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008.

**Robert Gay.** *Lucia: Testimonies of a Brazilian Drug Dealer's Woman.* Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2005.

**Paul Gootenberg.** *Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008.

**Robin Kirk.** *More Terrible than Death: Massacres, Drugs, and America's War in Colombia.* New York: Public Affairs, 2003.

**Coletta Youngers and Eileen Rosin, eds.** *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America: The Impact of U.S. Policy.* Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2005.

**Electronic Reserves:** Readings marked with "\*" in the schedule are available as electronic reserves on BlackBoard. I expect you to *print out* these readings and *bring the printouts to class* as basis for discussion. (To reduce paper consumption, please use the double-sided print function available both at Croft and Honors College printers.)

You are expected to complete the assigned readings *before* the respective class period and come to class prepared to discuss them.

**The SYLLABUS is subject to change.** Lectures may be switched, readings may be added or substituted, and assignments may change. Any changes will be announced in class.

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## SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1: BACKGROUND

M 8/24     **Introduction to the Course**

W 8/26     **Global Drug Trade and the 'War on Drugs'**

- 1) \* David T. Courtwright, "The Little Three: Opium, Cannabis, and Coca," in *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001), 31-52.
- 2) Coletta A. Youngers and Eileen Rosen, "The U.S. 'War on Drugs': Its Impact on Latin America and the Caribbean," in Youngers and Rosin, eds. *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 1-13 (Ch.1).

### WEEK 2: THE ORIGINS OF THE ANDEAN DRUG INDUSTRY

M 8/31     **From Indigenous Coca to Medical Cocaine**

Gootenberg, *Andean Cocaine*, 1-102 (Intro, Chapters 1 and 2).

W 9/2     **Cocaine as Peruvian Commodity**

Gootenberg, *Andean Cocaine*, 105-188 (Chapters 3 and 4)

### **WEEK 3: THE RISE OF ILLICIT COCAINE**

M 9/7     **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (no class)**

W 9/9     **From Licit to Illicit Cocaine**

Gootenberg, *Andean Cocaine*, 189-324 (Chapters 5 to 7)

**FIRST BOOK ESSAY due**

### **WEEK 4: THE ECONOMICS OF THE DRUG TRADE TO THE UNITED STATES**

M 9/14    **The Economic Geography of Cocaine**

\* Christian M. Allen, *The Industrial Geography of Cocaine*, 1-56 (Chapters 1 to 3).

W 9/16    **Distribution Networks and Marketing**

\* Allen, *The Industrial Geography of Cocaine*, 57-132 (Chapters 4 to 8).

**CHAPTER SUMMARIES due**

### **WEEK 5: THE BUSINESS OF SMUGGLING DRUGS**

M 9/21    **The Distribution System**

Decker and Chapman, *Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling*, 1-87 (Chapters 1 to 4).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (1)**

W 9/23    **Smuggling and Interdiction**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Stephen Mallory** (Associate Prof. of Legal Studies)

Reading: Decker and Chapman, *Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling*, 88-161 (Ch. 5 to 7).

### **WEEK 6: U.S. 'COUNTERNARCOTICS' POLICIES**

M 9/28    **The Militarization of 'Counternarcotics' Efforts**

Adam Isacson, "The U.S. Military in the War on Drugs," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 15-60 (Chapter 2).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (2)**

W 9/30    **Transnational Police Cooperation in the 'War on Drugs'**

Rachel Nield, "U.S. Police Assistance and Drug Control Policies," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 61-97 (Chapter 3).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (3)**

### **WEEK 7: THE 'WAR ON DRUGS' IN THE ANDES**

M 10/5    **Bolivia & Peru**

1) Katheryn Ledebur, "Bolivia: Clear Consequences," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 143-184 (Chapter 5).

2) Isías Rojas, "Peru: Drug Control Policy, Human Rights, and Democracy," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 185-230 (Chapter 6).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS (4 and 5)**

W 10/7    **Ecuador & Colombia**

1) Fredy Rivera Vélez, "Ecuador: Untangling the Drug War," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 231-261 (Chapter 7).

- 2) María C. R. Lemus, Kimberly Stanton, and John Walsh, "Colombia: A Vicious Circle of Drugs and War," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 99-142 (Chapter 4).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS (6 and 7)**

### **WEEK 8: THE 'WAR ON DRUGS' IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN**

#### **M 10/12 Mexico & the Caribbean**

- 1) Laurie Freeman and Jorge Luis Sierra, "Mexico: The Militarization Trap," in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 263-302 (Chapter 8).
- 2) Jorge Rodríguez Beruff and Gerardo Cordero, "The Caribbean: The 'Third Border' and the War on Drugs", in Youngers and Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 303-337 (Chapter 9).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADERS (8 and 9)**

W 10/14 \*\*\* **MIDTERM EXAM** \*\*\*

### **WEEK 9: THE IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE: BRAZIL**

#### **M 10/19 Drugs and the 'War on Drugs' in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Video (in class): *News of a Private War*.

#### **W 10/21 Drugs, the 'War on Drugs', and the Lives of the Poor**

Peter Gay, *Lucia: Testimonies of a Brazilian Drug Dealer's Woman*, entire.

**SECOND BOOK ESSAY due.**

### **WEEK 10: THE IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE: MEXICO**

#### **M 10/26 Drug Politics in Mexico**

- 1) \* 2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report - Mexico
- 2) \* Alma Guillermoprieto, "Letter from Mexico: Days of the Dead," *The New Yorker* November 10, 2008.
- 3) \* Laura Carlson, "Drug War Doublespeak" (Americas Program Commentary), March 9, 2009.

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (10)**

#### **W 10/28 Drug Culture in Mexico: Narcocorridos**

Guest Speaker: **Dr. John Gutierrez** (Professor of Spanish)

Reading: TBA

### **WEEK 11: Colombia and the 'War on Drugs'**

#### **M 11/2 Drug Wars, Human Rights, and the Crisis of the Colombian State**

Robin Kirk, *More Terrible than Death: Violence, Drugs, and America's War in Colombia*, entire.

**RESPONSE PAPER due**

#### **W 11/4 The War on Drugs in Colombia**

Guest Speaker: **Michael Evans** (National Security Archive)

Reading: TBA

### **WEEK 12: DRUGS AND THE 'WAR ON DRUGS' IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LATIN AMERICA**

#### **M 11/9 Student Presentations: Part I**

#### **W 11/11 Student Presentations: Part II**

**WEEK 13: DRUGS AND THE ‘WAR ON DRUGS’ IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY LATIN AMERICA**

M 11/15 **Student Presentations: Part III**

W 11/17 **Student Presentations: Part IV**

**\*\*\* NOVEMBER 23-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK \*\*\***

**WEEK 14: THE FUTURE OF THE ‘WAR ON DRUGS’ IN LATIN AMERICA**

M 11/29 **Taking Account: Latin America and the Future of the War on Drugs**

Coletta A. Youngers and Eileen Rosen, “The Collateral Damage of the U.S. War on Drugs: Conclusions and Recommendations,” in Youngers and Rosin, eds. *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America*, 329-366 (Ch.10).

**STUDENT DISCUSSION LEADER (11)**

W 12/1 **The Outlook: Cold War Lessons for the War on Drugs?**

Reading: TBA

**\*\*\* Final Project (Research Paper) Due on FRIDAY, December 3 @ 3pm \*\*\***

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**BEWARE of PLAGIARISM !!**

**PLAGIARISM** means representing the writings or ideas of another person as your own. It is always unethical, frequently illegal, and raises serious doubts about the personal integrity of the offender.

**PLAGIARISM includes:**

- a) **Copying** or **paraphrasing** information from a book, article, website, or other source without acknowledging the source of the quote or original idea. (Minor alterations to the copied or paraphrased text will not resolve the problem; it is still plagiarism.)
- b) Letting **someone else** write even part of your paper for you

**Avoid PLAGIARISM by:**

- a) Using quotation marks ***every time*** you use words from a source.
- b) Providing citations after quotes and paraphrased ideas.

**PENALTY for PLAGIARISM:** A plagiarized assignment will automatically receive 0 points. The student will also forfeit any extra credit opportunity (including the attendance bonus) for the entire course. I reserve the right to impose further penalties (e.g. an automatic ‘F’ for the course) and/or report cases of plagiarism to the college.

**USE the WRITING CENTER !!**

If you encounter difficulties writing papers, take your draft to the WRITING CENTER (Suite 310 of the J. D. Williams Library). The staff will also be able to address any concerns about plagiarism.