

## **(PALAS 400) Latin America in the Global Economy**

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Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies

Universidad de Belgrano

Course Syllabus 2020

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### **Course Information**

Mo We 17:30-19:00 PM

Instruction in English

### **Contact Information**

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### **Course Description**

This course will study the development patterns of Latin America since colonial times to present days. Dependency from external factors has underpinned Latin America's economic development. This course will focus on the specific issues that determined the economic development of the region as a whole, as well as that of individual countries. The first part of this course will focus on economic history. In the second part, students are expected to choose one country from a list of Latin American countries and conduct research. A case study of the chosen country's patterns of development and how economic history forged present-day conditions /issues /disparities/insertion in the world will be presented, both orally - approximately 25 minutes followed by a 10-15 discussion - as well as written, both with a substantial weigh in the total final grade of the course, as seen below. The third part of the course will focus on the future prospects of Latin American development, future dilemmas and strategies.

### **Course Requirements**

Class attendance is required of all students at UB. A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with the attendance policy. Class participation is very important; there will be several class discussions, which will rely heavily on student participation. Students are expected to conduct research for the final paper and consult the digital library (EBSCO) for that purpose. UB holds to the view that plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and is a serious breach of acceptable conduct. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester. There will be no make ups for classes falling on public holidays.

\*For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the student handbook in orientation kit packet.

### **Grading Policy**

Participation	10 %
Paper presentation (oral & written)	30 %
Midterm	25 %
Final Exam	35 %

*Passing the final exam is mandatory in order to promote the course.*

### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

*Ramon Berjano & Argüero, Course Reader.*

## **Academic Calendar**

### **Week 1**

Introduction. Presentation of the course The importance of integration in the current world scenario. Peace through integration. The three waves of regionalism.

### **Week 2**

Latin America in the world economy: growth, development and trade. The economics of knowledge. Innovation and intangible capital. Creative destruction. Technological progress in economic growth. Knowledge as a non rival and partially excludable good. Monopoly and competition.

### **Week 3**

Social and private rates of return to investments in education and R&D. Mapping R&D activity. Technological capabilities of Latin American countries. Successes and failures of the agroexporting model and the import substitution model in Latin America

### **Week 4**

Exports according to technological intensity. From cultural to social and economic integration.

### **Week 5**

Mercosur

### **Week 6**

Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata. The boom of commodities and new axes of power. 2008 crisis and its aftermath in the region. The emergence of China and its impact on Latin American Economies

### **Week 7**

Trade with Asia. Entering the Asian market. Asian integration and Latin America. ¿Threat or opportunity?  
Pacific Alliance (Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Chile): From free trade to harmonization of policies.

### **Week 8**

#### **Monday Midterm exam**

#### **Results of the exam**

### **Week 9**

Is it possible to have a long term and successful strategy with Asia Pacific and China?

Democracy, civil liberties and political systems in Latin America **Inquiries about group work.**

Discussion: Do historical patterns of development determine the "fate" of certain countries? Introduction to the economic history of Latin America.

### **Week 10**

Migrations: the three waves of migration in Latin America. Current trends and future perspectives.

Integration in the automotive sector. Production capabilities and dependence on foreign companies. Managing conflicts. Cases in South America: Botnia conflict (Uruguay & Argentina), Landlocked Bolivia and its access to the Pacific Ocean.

### **Week 11**

Energy: Reserves, tendencies and countries' strategies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Integration in the energy sector.

Sustainability and recent trends in the energy sector: solar energy in Chile, offshore oil in Brazil, Shale O&G in Argentina.

Environment and sustainability in Latin America: a historical perspective.

### **Week 12**

#### **Oral presentations (25' each)**

### **Week 13**

#### **Oral presentations (25' each)**

Main areas of inward FDI. Region's potentials. Outward FDI.

Exports of finished products from South America. Largest companies by country. Moving up the value chain.

FDI and its effects in developing economies. Flows of FDI to South America.

### **Week 14**

Open discussion: Latin America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century's economy: globalization, trade and cooperation.

Review for the final exam.

### **Week 15**

#### **Monday: Final Exam**

**Wednesday:** Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Argüero, L. (2016), "The ever 'under construction' Mercosur", UB.
- Ramon Berjano (2018), Handout PALAS 400, UB
- de Castro, Hogenboom, Baud, Environmental governance in Latin America, Ch. 1 and 2.
  - Durand, J. (2009), "Processes of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean", Human Development Research Paper 09/24, UNDP.
  - ECLAC (2019), "Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America", United Nations Publications, Santiago de Chile.
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  - ECLAC (2016), "Innovation, Science and Technology in the digital economy", ch. 1 to 4
- Florida, R. (2008), *Who's your city?*. Basic Books, Nueva York.
- Foray, D. (2006), *The Economics of Knowledge*. MIT Press, London.
- Kuwayama, M. (2009), "Quality of Latin American industrialization and integration into the global economy", United Nations Publication, Chile.
  - Laurssen, F. (ed.) (2010), *Comparative Regional Integration*, Ashgate.
  - WTO (2011), World Trade Report 2011.