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## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies**

**IRLS655**

**Latin American Security Issues**

**3 Credit Hours**

**Length of Course: 8 Weeks**

**Prerequisite(s): None**

### Instructor Information

**Instructor:**

**Email:**

### Course Description (Catalog)

**IRLS655 – Latin American Security Issues:** America continues as one of the most important areas to the United States -- even as it remains one of the least understood. In particular, the internal dimension of security has not yet been resolved in many Latin American nations to the extent that domestic stability can be taken for granted, a reality which could have profound consequences for the United States. In the recent past, for instance, the US has experienced two major refugee influxes, one from Cuba, the other from Haiti. Further, the US has seen countries as close as Mexico and Colombia experience internal turmoil which at times appeared sure to produce similar waves. This course focuses upon this internal security dynamic.

### Course Scope

An upper-level seminar, this course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. Students will conduct analysis of readings and research in preparation for the Capstone project in the Graduate program.

### Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

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CO-1: Differentiate the core security issues and their implications for understanding Latin America, from competing perspectives.

CO-2: Analyze the relationship of ruling parties and political ideology of the nations of Latin America.

CO-3: Assess the drug wars and security environment throughout Latin America.

CO-4: Evaluate the role of the United States within Latin America.

CO-5: Analyze the changing strategic environment and non-state actors in Latin America.

### Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded Forum), examination, and individual assignments (submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

### Course Materials

1. *Latin American Security Challenges, A Collaborative Inquiry from North and South*, Naval War College, Newport Papers 21, <http://stinet.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA430425&Location=U2&doc=GetTRDoc.pdf>
2. *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
3. Articles, journals, print & media reports, and documentaries assigned throughout the course. The articles will be identified in the **Course Outline** below and in the *Weekly Overviews* in the classroom **Packets**.

### Evaluation Procedures

**Announcements:** Students are required to read the weekly announcements.

**Grades:** Grades for this course will be based upon three grading instruments; virtual discussions, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. There are six weekly discussion questions that are provided in the **Forum**. Each student will engage other students in a virtual exchange. The two exams will be composed of short answer questions and integrative essays. The grade scale for each of the evaluations is provided below:

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<u>Grade Instruments:</u>	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Forums	30%
Progress Assignment	30%
Final Assignment	<u>40%</u>
	100%

**Forums:**

For each discussion topic, you are to post a thorough response to the questions posed, being sure to include examples drawn from the text, readings, and powerpoint notes. Your response to your colleagues' posts must be thoughtful, indicate you thoroughly read their post, and offer new insight in response to something specific he/she said. Your responses MUST bring something new to the discussion.

**CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE:** For all course in the School of Security and Global Studies, we use Turabian/Chicago style for our citations.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. Consideration MAY be given for extenuating circumstances, provided the student contact the professor AHEAD of time. One point for each day the assignment is late will be deducted from your grade for the assignment

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	<b>Comparative Security Issues</b>	CO-1: Differentiate the core security issues and their implications for understanding Latin America, from competing perspectives. Latin America	<b>The Future of Latin American Studies</b>  <b>The Changing Dynamics of Inter-American Security.</b>  <b>The Transformation of Security in Latin America</b>	<i>Forum:</i> Virtual Introduction and Discussion Question  <i>Web Resources:</i> Access <a href="http://www.worldworld.com">www.worldworld.com</a> <a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/Lessons Week 1">http://lanic.utexas.edu/Lessons Week 1</a>

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			<p><b>Latin American Security: Emerging Challenges, Bitencourt, Luis</b></p> <p><b>Rethinking Latin American and Caribbean Security: A Transtate Approach, Collier, Michael</b></p>	
2	<p><b>Latin America: Leftist Political Trends</b></p>	<p>CO-2: Analyze the relationship of ruling parties and political ideology of the nations of Latin America.</p>	<p><b>Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency</b></p> <p><b>Latin America's Left Turn, Castaneda, J.</b></p> <p><b>Evo Morales, the 'Two Bolivias' and the Third Bolivian Revolution, Dunkerly, J.</b></p> <p>Resisting Progress: The New Left and Higher Education</p> <p>Review Article Defining the Left in Latin America</p> <p>Explaining the Rise of the Left</p>	<p><i>Forum:</i> Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access <a href="http://www.worldworld.com">www.worldworld.com</a> <a href="http://www.cia.gov">www.cia.gov</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 2</b></p>
3	<p><b>Latin America: Security Decision-making Structures</b></p>	<p>CO-2: Analyze the relationship of ruling parties and political ideology of the nations of Latin America.</p>	<p>Creating Multilevel Security Governance in South America</p> <p>Sustainable Security</p>	<p><i>Forum:</i> Discussion Question Country Profile</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access <a href="http://www.cia.gov">www.cia.gov</a> <a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/">http://lanic.utexas.edu/</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 3</b></p>
4	<p><b>Latin America: Economic Security Issues</b></p>	<p>CO-2: Analyze the relationship of ruling parties and political ideology of the nations of Latin America.</p>	<p>Lived Religion and Lived Citizenship</p>	<p><i>Forum:</i> none</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access <a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a> and</p>

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			<p>Expressions of Evangelism in Latin America</p> <p>Religion and Resistance to Extraction in Rural Peru</p> <p>Religion and Politics in Latin America</p>	<p><a href="http://www.iaForum.org">www.iaForum.org</a></p> <p>Course Folder: <b>Lessons Week 4 and Mid-term Assessment</b></p>
5	<p><b>Latin America: Domestic Security Issues</b></p>	<p>CO-3: Assess the drug wars and security environment throughout Latin America.</p> <p>CO-5: Analyze the changing strategic environment and non-state actors in Latin America.</p>	<p><b>Reform and Revolution in Latin America: Class Struggle will Determine the Outcome, VillaGomez,</b></p> <p><b>Indigenous Rights in Latin America: The Gap between Doctrine and Reality, Ruge. D</b></p> <p><b>Negotiating Rights: The Guatemalan Peace Process Please note that you can either use the Kindle version or use the FireFox add-on that you can access here.</b></p> <p><b>Video: Panama: Village of the Damned</b></p>	<p>Forum: Discussion Question</p> <p>Web Resources: Access <a href="http://www.csis.org">www.csis.org</a>, <a href="http://www.thedialogue.org">www.thedialogue.org</a> and <a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/">http://lanic.utexas.edu/</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 5</b></p>
6	<p><b>Latin America: Transnational Crime &amp; Drug Cartels</b></p>	<p>LO-3: Assess the strategic and security environment throughout Latin America.</p> <p>LO-5: Analyze the changing strategic environment and emerging actors in Latin America.</p>	<p><b>C.R. Seelke, Gangs in Central America</b></p> <p><b>Women in Transnational Crime</b></p> <p><b>The Evolution of Drug Trafficking and</b></p>	<p>Forum: Seminar Questions</p> <p>Border Assignment</p> <p>Web Resources: Access <a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/">http://lanic.utexas.edu/</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 6</b></p>

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			<p><b>Organized Crime in Latin America</b></p> <p><b>Trafficking of Women in Mexico</b></p> <p><b>Police Cooperation between Colombian and Central America and the Caribbean</b></p>	
7	<b>Latin America: External Threats</b>	<p>CO-3: Assess the drug wars and security environment throughout Latin America.</p> <p>CO-4: Evaluate the role of the United States within Latin America.</p> <p>CO-5: Analyze the changing strategic environment and non-state actors in Latin America.</p>	<p>Boundary Disputes in Latin America, Dominguez, J.</p> <p>The Soldier and the Narco State</p> <p>The Post-American Hemisphere</p>	<p><i>Forum:</i> Seminar Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> <a href="http://www.usip.org">www.usip.org</a> and <a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/">http://lanic.utexas.edu/</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 7</b></p>
8	<b>Latin America: Assessing the Future</b>	<p>CO-1: Differentiate the core security issues and their implications for understanding Latin America, from competing perspectives.</p>	<p>Castaneda, Morning in Latin America</p> <p>Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America</p> <p>Democracy in Latin America: between hope and despair</p>	<p><i>Forum:</i> none</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access <a href="http://www.worldworld.com">www.worldworld.com</a> <a href="http://www.usip.org">www.usip.org</a></p> <p><b>Lessons Week 8</b></p> <p><b>Final Assessment</b></p>

### Library Guide

Library Guide for courses can be found at: <http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.

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- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library:  
librarian@apus.edu