

SPANISH 640 / IS 640--GLOBALIZATION & LATIN AMERICA: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

This course explores some of the current debates on globalization in Latin America and recent and interrelated transformations in the economies, politics, and cultures of the region. Three specific "problems" will be examined from several disciplinary perspectives: drugs and drug trafficking, the supposed dissolution of the nation-state, and the rise of indigenous movements. Students will be encouraged to address topics relevant to their major(s) in an interdisciplinary manner. The course incorporates a series of guest lectures by experts in their fields (academics from OSU and other Universities).

Rationale:

This course explores globalization and related issues in Latin American in a multi- and inter- disciplinary fashion. It is the only such interdisciplinary course on Latin America. It touches on the main economic, political, and cultural transformations in the region, as well as specific problems that cut across several disciplines. Two of the key features of the course will be 1) to explore contemporary problems from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and 2) to use internal and external guest lectures as an integral part of the course. These lectures will both enrich the students' experiences in class and help meet the course's multi-disciplinary goals. The multi-disciplinary perspective will be further enhanced by an active Latin American speaker series beyond the classroom during the quarter.

This course will meet the needs of several audiences. It will serve as a "gateway" and required course for the Latin American Interdisciplinary Specialization in International Studies (ISIS), a new program for professional and graduate students with an interest in Latin America. It will also work as a capstone-type of course for the Latin American Studies track of the Undergraduate International Studies Program (UISP). In addition, it will meet the needs of advanced undergraduate students pursuing the new Globalization minor of the UISP, and of undergraduate and graduate students otherwise interested in the region.

Funds to develop and teach this course have been provided by a Title VI grant from the US Department of Education to OSU's Center for Latin American Studies. Fernando Unzueta, the Center's director, developed the course and has taught it recently. In the Spring of 2004 the course was cross-listed as Spanish and International Studies 694 and taught by Professor Unzueta with 13 students. A revised syllabus is being submitted this same quarter for consideration as a regular course Spanish 640/International Studies 640).

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