

## HIS 216

“U.S.-Latin American Relations”

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections;"  
"Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: José Manuel Baeza

The political commentator and *New York Times* columnist James Reston once wrote, "The U.S. will do anything for Latin America, except read about it." In this course we will work to prove him wrong. Using a wide array of sources, this course examines the historical relationship between the United States and Latin America since the early nineteenth century, taking into consideration the various and shifting strategic, diplomatic, economic, and cultural forces that account for that relationship. In particular, we will focus on the contested discourse of “Pan-Americanism.” To do so, we will examine multiple perspectives incorporating a range of actors, institutions, and ideological forces both in Latin America and the United States. How, when, and why has U.S. strategy toward Latin America evolved over time? Which tactics have Latin American states employed to exert influence over one of the world’s prime powers? When and why has the United States sided with progressive forces seeking change, or with reactionary ones looking to uphold the status quo? What was the significance of the Cold War on U.S.-Latin American relations? How local social actors have maneuvered between U.S. and Latin American interests in their own pursuits? While organized chronologically, this course will also develop an understanding of broader themes such as "hegemony," "dependency," "nationalism," and "cultural imperialism." The course is asynchronous, readings will be provided via Brightspace.