

# PO396-15 International Relations of the Americas

**26/27**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Thomas Long

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

An old refrain in Latin America, asks: “Why are there no coups in the United States?” The answer: “There is no U.S. embassy in Washington.” Behind the joke is a serious allegation and assumption: the region’s politics are not determined by local actors, but by the machinations of the United States. International Relations in the Americas are characterized by tremendous disparities of power. The United States dwarfs the combined nations of Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of economic might, military power, and global influence. Historically, this has led most observers to focus on the “hegemonic presumption” of the United States. How did the Northern colossus impose its will on its weaker Southern neighbours? Was U.S. power also the determining factor for Western Hemispheric relations? This module examines the history and current challenges of international politics in the Americas, trying to understand the motivations and actions of multiple actors within the hemisphere in addition to the salient role of the United States. This module will be of great interest to students who want to deepen their knowledge of Latin America, of the history of U.S. foreign policy, and for those with an interest in the broader application of IR theories on power disparities, regionalism, and more.

### Module aims

The principal aims of this module are to help students understand the international relations of the Western Hemisphere. The module will explore historical and contemporary international relations among the states of the Americas, using both general and sui generis IR theories and foreign policy analysis. The module will examine US-Latin American relations, regional organizations, intra-Latin American relations, and foreign policies of major Latin American states. Students will examine competing theoretical explanations for broad trends and specific state actions.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introduction and context
2. IR theories in the Americas
3. Independence to early asymmetry
4. US rise and interventionism
5. Post-war to revolution
6. Reading week
7. Late Cold War
8. A post-hegemonic hemisphere?
9. Regional organizations
10. Transnationalization

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Explain and apply different approaches to the study of inter-American relations
- Describe critical junctures and their impact on the development of international relations in the Americas
- Assess key concepts used in Latin American scholarship, such as autonomy and dependency
- Have improved their research and writing skills

## **Indicative reading list**

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

## **Subject specific skills**

TBC

## **Transferable skills**

TBC

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## Study

### Study time

| Type          | Required                  |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Lectures      | 9 sessions of 1 hour (6%) |
| Seminars      | 9 sessions of 1 hour (6%) |
| Private study | 132 hours (88%)           |
| Total         | 150 hours                 |

### Private study description

TBC

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

|                                    | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessment component               |           |            |                                 |
| 3,000 word essay                   | 100%      |            | Yes (extension)                 |
| Reassessment component is the same |           |            |                                 |

### Feedback on assessment

Comments will be provided for the essay on the PAIS assessment feedback forms, and students will have the opportunity to discuss this with the module director in Advice and Feedback hours.

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# Availability

## Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM16 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 3 of UPOA-M102 Undergraduate Global Politics (with Integrated Year Abroad at Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated

Year)

- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics