

KU Language Across the Curriculum  
**Spring 2010 KULAC Courses in Spanish**

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## United States/Latin American Relations

LAA 302 (88519) / 602 (88520) Th 5:30-8:20p.m.

Taught by Robert Rodriguez



This interdisciplinary course taught **en español** will provide a historical overview of political relations between the United States and Latin American countries, with an emphasis on U.S. military interventions, covert/overt political operations in the region, trade issues and immigration.

From the Monroe Doctrine through present-day immigration issues, the political relations between Latin American countries and their neighbor to the north have varied tremendously. The geographic proximity of Latin America to the United States, along with the hegemonic role that the United States plays in the global order has made their relations undeniably significant.

We will begin our journey to understand Latin America-U.S. relations with an examination of U.S. proclamations, such as the Monroe Doctrine in the context of independence movements throughout the region. Then, the course will progress to an analysis of U.S. territorial and political expansion and its effects on Latin America. Themes such as "Dollar Diplomacy" and the "Good Neighbor Policy" will be scrutinized. The unique relationship between the U.S. and Latin America during the Cold War will be emphasized, particularly U.S. covert/overt military interventions in Cuba and Central America. Next, we will shift our focus to issues of economic interdependence, with an emphasis on the 1980s debt crisis and NAFTA along with U.S. efforts to curtail drug trafficking in the region. Subsequently, specific attention will be given to the Post-9/11 relationship between the U.S. and its southern neighbors and Latin American immigration to the United States. The course will be rounded out with discussion of democratically elected Leftist presidents in Latin America and their relations with the current U.S. presidential administration and beyond.