

Name of course: SECURITY CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Short description:

Course dedicated mainly to first-year students in the fields of International Relations and Political Science, in English, in the following lines: Undergraduate in International Relations and Undergraduate Political Science program. The objective of the course is to familiarize students with the threats and challenges to security in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Full Course Description:

The objective of this course is to give an approach of the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the problems the region face in the matter of security, its challenges, and possible solutions. A typology of the main threats and challenges to security in the countries of the region will be presented and discussed; especially Drug Trafficking, organized crime and violence; Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling; Environmental, natural disasters, pandemics and health security. Also, to the extent that Central America has become a key area for the transfer of drugs to the United States, which is reflected in higher levels of violence, Social exclusion and violence have resulted in the massive migration of Central Americans to the United States through Mexico, thereby straining relations with the United States.

Finally, the implications of these challenges for inter-regional relations and for individual countries in the region will be analyzed, and proposals will be made to resolve these problems at the state level, regional organizations such as the OAS, and bilateral cooperation.

Title of courses

1. Course Introduction.
2. Latin American and the Caribbean's Security Challenges. First approach and Brainstorming
3. What is security? Latin-American vision of the security and Latin-American context.
4. Threats and challenges to security in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Drug Trafficking, organized crime and violence.
6. Irregular Migration, Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling.
7. Environmental and health security. The ravages of the pandemic.
8. U.S and Latin American & the Caribbean Relations: Security Agenda and Challenges.

Literature (detailed course description and literature will be given during lectures)

Assessment criteria:

- Class attendance and active participation in class – 20% of the final grade.
- Test will count for 80% of the final grade.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

Knows and understands:

- The challenges to security, risks, threats, and opportunities that Latin America and the region of the Caribbean face, and approach to the reality of the Region.
- The role of multilateralism and the different international organizations that are related to the security in Latin America, their objectives, successes, and failures.
- The possible solutions and strengths of the region to face the threats to security.

Skills:

Is able to:

- Make a multidisciplinary analysis making use of different variables to understand the reality of Latin America and Caribbean countries.
- Find problems and future solutions in an exercise of prospective to the challenges and threats to security not only in Latin America, but to export the knowledge to other latitudes.

Social Competence:

Is able to:

- Make a critical analysis of their own reality.
- Being more sensible to problems that other societies face.
- Be able to develop professionally in creating ties between the European Union and Latin America on security matters, specializing their knowledge in international relations.