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REGIONAL STUDIES II (LATIN AMERICA)

DESCRIPTION: The subject has a double objective:

- A) To present future graduates with a view of the principal historical, socio-cultural, political and economic characteristics of Latin America
- B) To endow them with theoretical and practical tools to help them carry out a scientific discussion and analysis of the Latin American reality on the world stage

SUBJECT SPECIFICATIONS:

Within the field of area studies or regional studies, this subject is based on the premise that Latin American countries share a specific geopolitical location and have other common features (historical, political or socio-cultural). In this regard, the goal of this subject is to present an initial overview of the reality of this region from a comparative perspective. For this, every work session will have a theoretical introduction and a practical approach to the different dimensions that make for a better understanding of the reality of this geographical space. Special attention will be paid to the role of Latin America in globalisation and how, as a region, it relates to other centres of power in the redistribution of forces at an international level

SKILLS- GOALS

General Skills-Goals:

Instrumental Skills-Goals:

- Analysis and synthesis capacity
- Organisational and planning capacity
- Basic knowledge of the area of study
- Recognition of diversity and multiculturalism
- Working within an international system

Systemic Skills-Goals:

- Understanding the cultures and customs of other countries
- Ability to work and learn independently
- Concern for quality

Specific Skills-Goals:

- Knowledge of the historical, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of the world's largest geographical regions.

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

Theme 0: Introduction to the subject

Block I: History of Latin America

- History of Latin America
- Pre-Colombian period. Discovery. Conquest. Colonisation. The Bourbon reforms.
- Independence. Civil Wars. Constitutional processes and Republican organisation.



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

- Between autocracy and democracy. Latin America and the Cold War. Sultanistic regimes. Bureaucratic-Authoritarian States. Left-wing and right-wing dictatorships. Human rights violations and transitional justice

Block II: Latin American society and culture

- Pre-Colombian civilisations
- The “tension and integration” of European, African and Indigenous aspects
- Migratory and immigratory processes
- Latin American artistic and scientific contributions to the world
- The role of religion and churches in Latin American society
- Cultural interpenetration between Latin America and the United States of America
Transnationalism
- Latin America: one and many. Hispanic-America and Luso-America

Block III: Latin American policy

- Characteristics of Latin American political systems
- Democratic consolidation and quality
- Executive Power, Parliaments. Justice systems. The political class
- Political parties and party systems. Social movements.
- Regional processes of political and economic integration: OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, LAC, LAIA, Mercosur, Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Andean Pact, CARICOM, CACM, FTAA, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and the Iberoamerican General Secretariat.

Block IV: Economy of Latin America

- Evolution of the economic structure. Colonial model
- Agro-export model
- Import substitution industrialization
- Foreign debt crisis
- Neo-liberal reforms. Inequality and poverty
- The return of the State as redistributing agent. The Truncated Welfare State.
- Latin American multinational companies (Multilatinas)
- The economic boom of the first decade of the 21st century

Block V: The Present and Future of Latin America

- Challenges in the region. Latin American countries within the new international context. Realist, neo-realist, structuralist and neo-liberal visions
- Self-image and the external perspective on Latin America
- Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and their presence in the G-20. The leadership of Brazil.
- The relationship between Latin America and the European Union
- The relationship between Latin America and China
- The role of Latin America in the WTO

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Work dynamics: The subject “Regional Studies: Latin America” has a classroom component and a non-classroom component. The structure of the assignment will alternate between the following activities throughout the semester:

- The lecturer’s presentation of the scheduled topic according to the study schedule
- Frequent exercises on the application and incorporation of concepts. This will generally be achieved by means of case studies.
- Discussion between students and lecturer on previously assigned articles/book chapters in order to clear doubts and work on knowledge which is deemed to have priority.
- Preparation of individual essays on topics of interest to students selected from those discussed in class. Instructions will be handed out at the beginning of the subject.
- Preparation of a virtual presentation by the students in groups, with topics assigned and supervised by the lecturer. This presentation will deal with the (national and international) political reality of a specific Latin American country. The results of this task will be shared with the rest of the students so that they may be used, among other elements, as study material for the final examination. Instructions will be handed out at the beginning of the subject.
- A presentation by a Latin American personality from the world of Latin American culture, politics or economics, residing in Madrid, on one or more of the topics included in the study schedule.
- A visit (or two) to international organisations with links to Latin America (such as the Iberoamerican General Secretariat, the OAS, the Ibero-American Youth Organisation) with headquarters in Madrid

ATTENDANCE:

Classroom attendance is compulsory. The unjustified absence from more than one-third (33%) of classroom hours will result in the loss of continuous evaluation. The student will then be ineligible to sit in the final examination and will lose both the ordinary and the extraordinary sessions.

TUTORING:

Students can attend individual or group tutoring sessions during scheduled hours, throughout the duration of the subject in order to clear doubts regarding the assigned tasks and the subject contents.

CLASSROOM METHODOLOGY:

Explanatory readings

These will be imparted by the lecturer and are a central part of the subject

Face-to-face classroom percentage: (100%)

Practical exercises/problem solving:



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UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

To be carried out via what are deemed to be “exercises for incorporation of knowledge”. The goal is to “refine” knowledge that is considered to be essential.

Face-to-face classroom percentage: (25%)

Individual and group assignments:

One of each type will be performed. The goal of the individual assignment is the drafting of scientific articles. The goal of the group assignment is to deepen the students’ knowledge of the political and economic system of a specific Latin American country

Face-to-face classroom percentage: (20%)

Personal study and documentation:

Students must read the material assigned by the lecturer for each of the sessions. This material will be part of the subject contents to be evaluated in the partial and final examinations.

Face-to-face classroom percentage: (0%)

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING CRITERIA

Examination: Final written test: 50%

Examination: Partial written test: 10%

Individual monograph on a topic of interest for the student using criteria for drafting scientific publications: 10%

Group monographs on the political and economic system of a Latin American country assigned by the lecturer: 10%

Active classroom participation of the student: 20%

SUMMARY OF STUDY HOURS OF STUDENT

Classroom hours: 60

Non-classroom hours: 90

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING ASSESSMENT:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 93.1 of the General Regulation of the University “absence from more than one third, or even a lower threshold where so established in the academic rules of the Centre, of the classroom hours of each subject shall result in the student’s inability to attend the examination in the ordinary session of the same academic year. The academic rules of the Centre may extend such consequence to the extraordinary examination session also”.

REFERENCE AND MATERIALS

Basic Reference



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

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COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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ICADE

CIHS

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UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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CIHS

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