

**Department of Political Science
Brigham Young University**

SYLLABUS

**Political Science 382
The International Relations of North America
Fall 2008
TTh 9:30-10:45 a.m.
174 TNRB**

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**Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
or by appointment**

Course Description:

This course will examine the major foreign and domestic policy issues facing the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It will look at the development of North American relations, especially the implementation of NAFTA, and the special challenges facing all three nations in increasingly complex and interdependent regional and global settings. A brief analysis will also be offered of political and economic developments in Central America and the Caribbean, and a special section will explore the feasibility of the proposed Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Special attention this semester will be paid to the implications of the 2008 U.S. elections for all three major North American countries.

Texts:

The following texts are required for this course, but only **three** should be purchased:

Abu-Laban, Yasmeen, Jhappen, Radha, and Rocher, François, eds. *Politics in North America*. Toronto: Broadview Press, 2008 (**purchase**).

Bothwell, Robert. *History of Canada Since 1876*. Washington, D.C.: ACSUS, 1996 (reserve).

Camp, Roderic Ai. *Politics in Mexico*, 5th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006 (**purchase**).

Council on Foreign Relations, *Building a North American Community*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 2005 (available without cost on line).

Dresser, Denise, and Wilson, Veronica. *U.S.-Mexico Relations: Permeable Borders, Transnational Communities*. Los Angeles: Pacific Council on International Policy, 2006 (available without cost on line).

Fry, Earl H. *Canada's Unity Crisis*. New York: Twentieth Century Fund, 1992 (reserve).

Fry, Earl H. *The Canadian Political System*. Washington, D.C.: ACSUS, 1996 (reserve).

Moens, Alexander. *Canadian-American Relations in 2007*. Vancouver: Fraser Institute, 2007 (available without cost on line).

Taylor, Stan A., Fry, Earl H., and Wood, Roberts S. *America the Vincible*, third edition. Boston: Pearson, 2005 (two copies will be placed on reserve—do not purchase).

Thompson, John Herd, and Randall, Stephen J. *Canada and the United States*, third edition. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2002 (**purchase**).

New York Times.

In addition to these books, articles from newspapers, journals, edited books, and the

Internet will also be assigned or recommended at various stages of the course. In particular, please peruse on a regular basis the websites of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, the *Toronto Star*, Mexonline.com, and the *Mexico Daily*.

Requirements:

1.	Midterm Examination	20% of course grade
2.	Term Paper	30%
3.	Final Examination	35%
4.	Class Participation and Quizzes	15%

The examinations will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions. The term paper will be a major research endeavor providing an in-depth analysis of the foreign policy of one or more of the three North American nations. You will be expected to consult with the instructor to determine a mutually agreeable topic area. Late term papers will be penalized one-half grade per day. **Your term paper cannot be submitted to any other class and must represent your own original work.**

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. If you believe that you will miss more than three class periods, you should strongly consider enrolling in another course.

Honor Code:

While all students sign **the honor code**, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the Internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor, I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://www.byu.edu/honorcode> for specific examples of intentional and inadvertent plagiarism.

Discrimination:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895 or 367-5689 (24 hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 378-2847.

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with

Disabilities Office (378-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 378-5895, D-282 ASB.

Schedule of Course Program:

	I. An Introduction to North American Relations
Sept. 2-4	What is North America? <u>Required Readings:</u> Council on Foreign Relations, 1-39.
Sept. 9-11	The North American Heritage <u>RR:</u> “A Strategy for Our North American Partnership” Foreign Affairs Canada website. Camp, Chapter 1.
	II. The Mexican Context
Sept. 16-18	Mexico’s Historical Development Burton Kirkwood, <i>The History of Mexico</i> (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2000), xiii-xvii, 131-153, 193-225 (available as Lee Library electronic resource). Camp, Chapter 2.
Sept. 23-25	The Mexican Political System and Current Issues <u>RR:</u> Camp, Chapters 3, 4, 7, and 8.
	III. The Canadian Context
Sept. 30-Oct. 2	Canadian Historical Patterns <u>RR:</u> Bothwell, 1-45, reserve.
Oct. 7-14	The Canadian Political System and Current Issues

	<u>RR:</u> Fry, <i>Political System</i> , 1-55, reserve.
	IV. U.S. Foreign Policy, 1945-2008
Oct. 16-21	Constitutional and Governmental Processes <u>RR:</u> Taylor, Fry, & Wood, 16-154.
Oct. 23-28	Major Foreign Policy Issues <u>RR:</u> Taylor, Fry, & Wood, 217-371.
Oct. 30	MIDTERM
	V. U.S. - Canadian Relations
Nov. 4	Deciphering the Undefended Border <u>RR:</u> Thompson and Randall, 1-183.
Nov. 6-11	Current Issues - Global and Regional <u>RR:</u> Thompson and Randall, 184-325. Moens, 1-32.
	VI. U.S.-Mexican Relations
Nov. 13	A Forgotten Relationship? <u>RR:</u> Camp, Chapter 9.
Nov. 18-20	The Issues <u>RR:</u> Dresser and Wilson, 1-74. Camp, Chapter 10. Nov 20th – TERM PAPERS DUE
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday
	VII. Challenges Facing North America

Dec. 2-4	NAFTA and Regional Issues <u>RR:</u> Abu-Laban, 101-113, 339-459. Earl H. Fry, <i>The Role of Sub-national Governments in North American Integration</i> (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy, 2004), reserve.
Dec. 9-11	The Outlook for North America and Central America : The FTAA and Other Issues <u>RR:</u> Abu-Laban, 115-131, 461-475
FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, Dec. 15, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	