

DRAFT SYLLABUS

This is posted for your info to help you select or prepare for a course. An official version will be ready at or prior to your course start. Texts will be same or very similar. Please check online bookstore for exact texts.



SEMINAR
IN
INT'L
RELATIONS



THE
POLITICS
OF
ILLICIT
NARCOTICS



TERM 4, 2004 COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Steven L. Taylor

Term: Term 4, 2004, March 15 - May 23, 2004

Texts:

The following texts are required for the course and are available via the TSU Distance Learning Center. Books often can also be obtained through www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com, and/or www.half.com.

Crandall, Russell. 2002. *Driven by Drugs: U.S. Policy Toward Colombia*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Press.

Bertram, Eva, et al., 1996. *Drug War Politics: The Price of Denial*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

The following text is available online:

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. 2000. *World Drug Report 2000*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.
http://www.undcp.org/world_drug_report.html

Additional Readings are available online via the course web pages or via TSU Library online resources such as EBSCO or Infotrac. The specific readings you will need are detailed on the course outline.

Class Time and Location: This course is an online interactive distance learning course available at the location of the student via the Internet. Students do not attend class or workshops on a Troy State University campus.

Catalog Description: This course will investigate the issues surrounding the production and distribution of illicit narcotics in the western hemisphere. The focus will be on the general problems at hand and the specific cases of the United States, Colombia and Mexico.

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the necessary knowledge to analyze the complex issue of the narcotics trade in this hemisphere.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the of the course, students should have achieved the following:

1. An understanding of the political dimensions of the illicit narcotics trade.
2. An understanding of the major international actors in the hemisphere, especially Colombia, Mexico and the United States.
3. An understanding of the ramifications of the drug trade on the United States and the hemisphere.
4. An understanding of the various policy options in regards to the illicit narcotics trade.

Course Requirements:

1. Read the assigned texts and supplemental articles.
2. Complete a proctored final examination.
3. Write a graduate-level research paper on a topic as approved by the professor (20-25 pps), including a research proposal with annotated bibliography.
4. Interact with classmates via the course discussion board, to include answering questions posted by the instructor (note the participation policy listed below).

Assessment Assignments:

Research Proposal/annotated bibliography (15%)	Each student will present a one-page research proposal which includes the basic research question of the project. Additionally the assignment requires an annotated bibliography of at least fifteen scholarly resources which will be used in writing the research paper.
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Due Date: Tuesday, 9/3/03 by 4pm central.

Final Examination (35%) The final will cover the second half of the course. It is not, strictly speaking, comprehensive, but it will assume foundational knowledge from the previous half of the course. It will be a take-home examination.

Due Date: Friday, 10/11/03 by 4pm central.

Term Paper (40%) A 20-25 page analytical research paper.

Due Date: Monday 9/30/03 by 4pm central time.

Discussion Board Participation (10%) Discussion is vital to this course. Participation consists both of answering questions posted by the professor as well as student-generated questions/discussion. Please see participation policy below.

Method of Instruction: This is an asynchronous distance learning course taught via the Internet. Students will complete assigned readings and interact with their colleagues and the instructor via the course discussion board. Additional guidance on research techniques related to the term paper will be given via electronic mail.

Please keep in mind that *asynchronous* means that we do not meet at specific times and that students have flexibility as to how they approach the material and when. It does NOT mean that the course has no structure and that students may complete the course whenever they want. There is a schedule and structure to the course.

Course Schedule: Click [here](#) for the outline of the course with the basic reading schedule.

Module I: The General Drug Issue

Module II: The Great Debate

Module III: The United States

Module IV: Colombia

Module V: Mexico

Class Policies and Procedures:

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: Any student whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course.

BROWSER RECOMMENDATION: I would highly recommend that all student obtain Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.x. It has been my experience with students using my web pages that IE outperforms Netscape Navigator. There is a new version of Navigator available (version 6) which may perform as well as IE, but I have not had a chance to sufficiently test it yet. Note: both browsers are available free online.

E-MAIL RESPONSES: I check my e-mail on a regular basis. I will try to respond as promptly as possible, but will not always be able to respond immediately. Please allow at least 24 hours before re-sending messages--48 hours over the weekend. Also, *please use the course discussion board for all correspondence that is related to the course material, assignment clarifications, etc.,* and use my personal e-mail address sltaylor@troyst.edu for correspondence that deals with private matters (such as grades and work circumstances (e.g., TDY issues)). This will prove more efficient and will increase the sense of a community of learning among the members of the class.

INCOMPLETE WORK POLICY: Incomplete grades are assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Students should refer to the Graduate Bulletin for policies regarding the removal of incomplete grades. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students called away for military duty. Students who anticipate problems should contact the instructor as soon as said problem arises to work out details.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY: The University's Information Technology System includes computing, information, technology, and network resources. All users of this technology system are obligated to utilize the various resources responsibly, legally, and ethically for their intended purpose. All students should read the policy before participating in online course activities.

LEARNING RESOURCES: TSU Library Remote Services are accessed at <http://tsulib.troyst.edu>. Assistance with library instruction is through the Public Service Librarians by discipline, which in this case would be international relations or political science. No non-library laboratories or facilities are required in this course.

PARTICIPATION POLICY: Interaction with colleagues and professors is an essential part of graduate coursework, and is therefore mandatory. Were this an in-class course, the most important part of the course (aside from your readings) would be the time spent in class discussing the material. Since we cannot literally sit around and talk, the message board is as close as we can get. You will note that 10% of your grade (i.e., 1 letter grade) is wrapped-up in participation. Not only will you be required to address questions which I post to the course pages, I would encourage online discussions amongst yourselves and the posing of questions for your colleagues and myself. *Simply answering the questions posed will not be enough for full credit. I expect student-generated participation as well.*

You must answer all the questions posted by the instructor, plus respond to at least two posts by your colleagues per module.

The instructor is aware of the exigencies of TDY and other non-school obligations and will make reasonable accommodations.

Please note: questions for readings prior to the mid-term must be answered before the mid-term examination. I will not accept message-board participation for the first half of the class after the mid-term examination is turned in.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: The commission of or the attempt to commit any cheating and/or plagiarism are in violation of the Standards of Conduct stated in the TSU Student Handbook, and students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion. Please note my plagiarism policy [here](#).

STUDENT SUPPORT: Distance Learning staff are identified at <http://www.tsulearn.net>. Assistance is available to students who experience difficulties using technology at <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distance/help>. Students who are proficient with the Internet generally but having specific problems with the online course materials (e.g., finding a broken link on the page) should contact the instructor directly at sltaylor@troyst.edu.