

POLI 4060: Organized Crime & Violence in the Americas

12:00 – 1:20pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 20120 students to the study of organ

al violence with a focus on how particular histories, state policies and periods of democratic transition have influenced the growth of organized criminal organizations throughout the Americas. The first part of the course provides a broad overview of the topic. We will then spend several weeks focusing on individual countries, including the Andean Region (Colombia, Bolivia, Peru), Central America (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua), and Mexico. The final set of readings focus on a variety of related topics such as how increases in violence influence migration, how domestic gun laws influence violence in other countries, and what rampant criminal violence means for the political process in new democracies.

Required textbook:

All assigned readings are provided in PDF format on Moodle.

Evaluation:

Components	Points	Grading Scale
Homework	100	485 - 500 A+
Exam 1	100	465 - 484 A
Exam 2	100	450 - 464 A-
Final paper	150	435 - 449 B+
Lab participation	25	415 - 434 B

Final Research Paper: Students are required to write an original 7-8 page research paper on a topic of their choice related to the content of the course. The one major requirement of the paper is that students must engage in some basic data analysis and incorporate this analysis into the final paper. Topic choi

Week 1: Introduction

Week 11: Guns/Democracy

11/1 (T): Dube, A., Dube, O. and García-Ponce, O., 2013. Cross-border spillover: US gun laws and violence in Mexico. *American Political Science Review*, 107(03), pp.397-417.

11/3 (Th): Bateson, R., 2012. Crime victimization and political participation. *American Political Science Review*, 106(03), pp.570-587.

Week 12: Lab