PROGRAMME (2018)

1. This is an elective course held at the Department of Social Studies at Universidad del Salvador for International Relations and Political Science students.

2. CLASS: Latin America and China: economic relations and political approaches

3. YEAR: 2018

4. SEAT: Center

5. PROFESSORSHIP’S COMPOSITION:

Professor Fernando Suárez Rubio  pablof.suarezrubio@gmail.com

Assistant: Juan José Albarracín

Student-Assistant: Juan Manuel López

6. TIME ALLOCATION: 54 hs.

CLASS/COURSE FUNDAMENTATION:

We can take the region as an aggregate sample and establish how, during the second half of the first decade of the 21st century, China (PRC) has become the trading partner whose exchange has surpassed all forecasts and emerged a cornerstone for all the economies. Between 2000 and 2013, trade in goods between Latin America and the Caribbean and China multiplied by 22, from just over $ 12 billion to almost $ 275 billion.

In this way, the PRC displaced the European Union in 2014 as the second largest market for exports from Latin America and the Caribbean, while in 2010 it surpassed it as the second main source of its imports.

But when we disaggregate by nations, we observe somewhat different results or at least new appreciations within the more developed bilateral relations. That’s where political approaches gain importance.

In a key period to understand the changes that have been taking place in the interior of China, both economic and political, and therefore, an interesting moment to anticipate the effects on third parties in the coming years, we dwell on the analysis of the Latin American cases that enjoyed of a certain "privilege" when facing their institutional, commercial and financial relations with the PRC, in the search to identify differences and / or nuances in the
externalities and, of course, the conflicts associated in the local arena, and therefore, the priority for the future agenda.

7. OBJECTIVES:

* Go through history, linking the great economic, political and institutional changes that synthesized traditional China and the actual modern World Power.

* Highlight major PCR XXI century reforms and global policies.

* Develop a general approach to Latin America (focusing on South American countries); then, a specific one for certain model cases.

* Observe differences and similarities between the South American countries, hoping to generate curiosity or concerns on students, about one or another in particular.

* Analyze inter-bloc commercial and financial relationships and the main novelties of the 21st century. Highlight the political agreements and new emerging institutions between the countries in question.

* We believe that a proposal of this type will serve to offer sufficient cognitive tools to introduce / consolidate in students their development of critical and reflective thinking.

8. UNITS, CONTENTS & MATERIALS:

ZERO UNIT: THE WORLD IS IN DEBATE

Introduce students to a series of discussions that cross and bond social sciences, making the work of the international analyst more complex.

Suggested readings:


FIRST UNIT: ABOUT CHINA

China is making its way into a Western world whose own rules of the game, good practices, guidelines and tailor-made institutional crystallizations, led in large part to the crisis and the deepening of extreme indicators of human development and anomie between states and societies.

It is essential to attend China’s economic rise from the relative success of Deng Xiaoping’s Reforms Policies launched in 1978: from a planned central vision, strongly critical of the country's poverty, they build their own model, based on the propensity to save and the industriousness of the Chinese people. Their expansive economic behavior brought with in the search for energy, food and raw materials for the early industry and an incipient middle class.

Suggested readings:


Complementary:


SECOND UNIT: ABOUT LATINAMERICA

After a calamitous end of the century, the beginning of the 21st brought to Latin American countries an acceleration of economic growth at an average per capita rate of 3%, while public debt as a percentage of GDP decreased from 52% of GDP to 35% around 2007. Macroeconomic improvements, also were reflected in the social field. During the first years of the millennium, the percentage of people living in poverty fell by 10 percent. Likewise, extreme poverty fell by 7%, the equivalent to 29 million people could improve their quality of life.

However, political and economic integration was never agreed, proliferating multiple (dissimilar) spaces and bilateral agendas that responded more to junctures than to the long term.

Suggested readings:


THIRD UNIT: CHINA MOVES. INFLUENT BILATERAL RELATIONS ANALYSIS.

The contemporary deployment of the bilateral and inter-regional relations that are presented, not only swells trade and the flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the rapprochement of positions in forums and multilateral organizations, the creation of new common institutions or the controversies about economic complementarities and reprimarization of the economies. It also has raised the academic debate about "opportunities and threats", "breaks and continuities" and so many discussions, as possible epistemological approaches.

Suggested readings:


FORTH UNIT: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Actual discussions on China’s role for the future 50 years. United States actions and consequences. And what about Latin-Americas place?

Suggested readings:


9. METHODOLOGICAL RESOURCES:
Classes will be developed under the theoretical-practical dyad, emphasizing one or another, as appropriate in each Unit.

Workshop propose an audiovisual instance that triggers themes and multiple visions about readings and a subsequent group debate. Bibliography reading is mandatory, given that we ponder authors knowledge.

10. EVALUATION/APPRaisal:
Students will earn two (2) different grades, based on individual an collective examination activities (essays & groups practical works).

Finally, final approval requires the fulfillment of 75% of attendance according to the established University’s regulation. Under no aspect will be granted regularity condition to students who do not comply with this last requirement.

Estimative Calendar:
1: Class introduction
2: Basic notions about China
3: Knowing China - First Part
4: Knowing China - Second Part
5: Basic notions about Latin America
6: General economic relations
7: General political relations
8: Study cases: Argentina - Brasil
9: Study cases: Ecuador - Perú - México
10: Media Workshop
11: Current discussions on China and the geopolitical reorganization - First Part
12: Guest Teacher class (sinologist)
13: Current discussions on China and the geopolitical reorganization - Second Part
14: Essays and Debate
15: Integrative class

CHINA’S HISTORIC LITERACY SUGGESTION:


*Qizhi Zhang (auth.)-An Introduction to Chinese History and Culture-Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg (2015)

*Sima Qian, K. E. Brasher, Raymond Dawson-The First Emperor-Selections from the Historical Records (Oxford World's Classics)-Oxford University Press, USA (2007)

*Mark Edward Lewis-China's Cosmopolitan Empire—The Tang Dynasty (History of Imperial China) (2009)


*Shambaugh David-The Modern Chinese State (Cambridge Modern China Series) (2000)