

**HIS/POL 216**  
**U.S.-Latin American Relations**

Satisfies: GLO, SBS [DEC: J]

M/W, 4:25-5:45

Professor Eric Zolov

The political commentator and *New York Times* columnist James Reston once wrote, "The U.S. will do anything for Latin America, except read about it." Using a wide array of sources, this course examines the historical relationship between the United States and Latin America since the early nineteenth century, taking into consideration the various and shifting strategic, diplomatic, economic, and cultural forces that account for that relationship. Thematically, the course is centered around the contested discourse of "Pan-Americanism." We unpack this discourse by examining multiple perspectives and incorporating a range of actors, institutions, and ideological forces both in Latin America and the United States. How, when, and why has U.S. strategy toward Latin America evolved over time? When and why has the United States sided with progressive forces seeking change, or with reactionary ones looking to uphold the status quo? What was the significance of the Cold War on U.S.-Latin American relations? While organized chronologically, this course will also develop an understanding of broader themes such as "hegemony," "dependency," "nationalism," and "cultural imperialism." There is a required textbook and edited collection of primary documents.