Course Description: Canada, the United States and Mexico have always had a complex relationship, shaped both by their past and their domestic politics. In 1994, the three countries entered into a trade agreement that helped to accelerate and formalize continental economic integration. Meanwhile, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States brought the security dimension of the continental relationship to the fore of a continent whose governance patterns continue to change.

This course is designed to help students understand the nature of politics in North America through a consideration of theoretical, historical and contemporary debates, and to encourage the analysis of the causes and consequences of closer ties between the three countries.

Course Objectives:
- To analyse the historical relationship between Canada, the United States and Mexico.
- To understand the forces leading to regional economic integration in North America, and the nature of the security dimension of North American politics.
- To evaluate the economic, political and social impact of regional integration within the three countries.
- To consider future directions in economic and political relations among the three countries.

Format: This is a seminar class. Each class will begin with a brief overview of the week’s themes and issues by the instructor. Students will be required to present and lead class discussions based on the required readings. All students are expected to complete the required readings before class and to participate in class discussions.

Course Materials: Course materials are available online through the Carleton library website, or through the reserve desk at the library. Please advise the instructor immediately if you encounter difficulties in obtaining the course materials.

Additionally, two texts have been ordered for purchase and are available at the Carleton University Bookstore. They are:
Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

- **Essay Proposal** 15%
  Students will be required to write an essay proposal based on a research topic of their choosing. Each topic must relate to one or more of the weekly subjects covered by this course. Each proposal should be five-to-seven pages in length, and must include references. Details attached. **Due: October 7, 2008.** *(as per early feedback guidelines, this assignment will be returned by October 31st.)*

- **Research Essay** 35%
  Students will submit a research paper based on their essay proposal. The paper should be 12-15 pages (3,000-3,750 words). Details attached. **Due: November 25, 2008.**

- **Short Summaries** 20%
  Each student will submit four one-page, single-spaced summaries (each worth 5%) based on a week’s required course readings. Each summary is due on the same day as the relevant readings. Summaries cannot be submitted for the same week in which you are presenting. There will be no exceptions for late or missing summaries. Further details attached. **At least one summary must be handed in by October 7, 2008.**

- **In-Class Presentation** 15%
  Each student will be responsible for leading the class in a discussion based on a selection of a week’s readings. A two-page, double-spaced summary of the presentation must be submitted at the same time as the presentation. Students will sign up for their week during the first class. Presenters should also refer to at least one of the recommended readings. Details attached.

- **Attendance & Participation** 15%
  Students will be evaluated on the basis of their active, informed and thoughtful oral participation in class discussions. Attendance will be taken. Details attached.

**Late Policy**
Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day not including weekends. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

*Policies on Assignments:*
All assignments in this course (with the exception of the single-space annotation) must be 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. They should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and bibliography. Assignments that do not have any citations from academic sources will be
returned to the student ungraded. Students will be permitted to re-submit the paper, within a specified deadline, but an automatic 10% penalty will be levied.

**STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINAL GRADE**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Note:** B=available for purchase; R=available on reserve; O=available online through university library or via provided link

**September 9**
1. **Introduction**
   Question: What is North America?
   - Introductions
   - Overview of course themes
   - Review of course outline and requirements
   - Sign-up for in-class presentations

**Required Reading:**

**September 16**
2. **Constructing Regions; The Role of the United States**
   Questions: How are regions formed? How has the long shadow of the European Union shaped the study of regions? How has the United States shaped “North America”?

**Required Readings: Regions**
McDougall. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 6. (59) [B, R]


**Required Readings: The United States and North America**

**Recommended Readings:**


September 23

3. Canada and the United States

Questions: How has the Canada-U.S. economic relationship developed over the course of the two countries’ history? How has Canada’s domestic political landscape shaped this relationship?

- First class presentations

**Required Readings:**

McDougall. Chapters 2-4. (88) [B, R]


**Recommended Readings:**

Clarkson, Stephen (2002). Uncle Sam and Us: Globalization, Neoconservatisim, and the Canadian State. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. [R]


September 30
4. Mexico, the United States and Canada

Question: How has the long, tangled history of Mexican-American relations affected the current bilateral relationship?


Recommended Readings:
Cooper, Andrew F (November 2005). “Thinking Outside the Box in the Canada-Mexico Relations: From Convenience to Commitment.”
[http://www.yorku.ca/robarts/projects/wto/seminars/can-mex/Cooper.pdf] [O]
Thacker, Strom C (Summer 1999). “NAFTA Coalitions and the Political Viability of Neoliberalism in Mexico.” Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs 41:2. v-89. [O]


October 7
5. Evaluating the North American Free Trade Agreement

Question: How should we evaluate the effects of NAFTA? From an economic and political perspective, what hath NAFTA wrought?

- Research essay proposal due
- Must have handed in at least one short summary by today

Required readings:

McDougall. Chapters 5, 7. (57) [B, R] (Canada)

Wise, Carol. “Unfulfilled Promise: Economic Convergence under NAFTA.” In Requiem or Revival? 27-52. (25) [B, R] (Mexico)


Recommended Readings:


October 14
6. North America, Security and the Border
Question: How did the American Response to the September 11, 2001, attacks affect the North American relationship?

- Take a quick look at the three documents referred to below

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Reviews articles looking at a) the creation of transnational labour coalitions; b) the environmental effects of NAFTA; and c) how the deal was done.
Serrano, Monica (Summer 2006). “Integration and security in North America: Do good neighbours need good fences?” International Journal 61:3. 611-632. (22) [O]

Documents:

October 21
7. The State and Social Policy
Question: How has increased economic integration affected: a) the three countries’ ability to implement distinctive social policies; and b) the quality of these social policies?

Required readings:


Recommended Readings:
Urmetzer, Peter. “Case Studies: Trade, the Environment and National Sovereignty.” In From Free Trade to Forced Trade. 144-164. [R]

October 28
Question: How has North American economic integration affected notions of citizenship and the structure of civil society, business, and non-governmental groups?

Required Readings:
McDougall. Chapters 8-9. (60) [B, R]


Recommended Readings:

November 4
9. Migration
Questions: How have questions of migration and the construction of identity evolved in North America, particularly in the United States? What implications does this debate have for the future of North America?

Required Readings:

Woroby, Tamara M. “North American Immigration: The Search for Positive-Sum Returns.” In Requiem or Revival. 247-266. (19) [B, R]


Recommended Readings:
Coleman, Mathew (February 2007). “Immigration Geopolitics Beyond the Mexico-US Border.” Antipode 39:1. 54-76. [O]

November 11
10. Energy
Question: What are we to make of concepts like “continental energy security”? 

Required Readings:


**Recommended Readings:**

November 18
**11. The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America**
Questions: What is the SPP? How important is it? Does it signal a change in the nature of the continental relationship?

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**


Documents:

November 25
12. The Future of North America
Questions: Where is North America headed? Where should it be headed? What are the “obstacles to integration”?

Required Readings:
McDougall. Chapter 10 and Conclusion. (32) [B, R]

Studer, Isabel. “Obstacles to Integration: NAFTA’s Institutional Weakness.” In Requiem or Revival. 53-75. (22) [B, R]

Clarkson, Stephen and Maria Banda. “‘Community of Law’: Proposals for a Strategic Deal with the United States.” In Whose Canada? 129-154. (25) [R]


Recommended Readings:


**REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ESSAYS**

**A. In-Class Presentation Based on Required Course Readings**

Worth: 15%

Dates of Presentations will be arranged during the first class. The first presentations will be on September 23, 2008. Your presentation must be for a different week than your short summaries.

All students will make a short presentation (10-15 minutes) based on a specific week’s required readings.

**Guidelines:**
- Do not provide a detailed summary of the reading.
- Highlight key debates or issues raised by the authors.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the readings.
- How does the reading relate to the other weekly assigned course readings and the broader issues raised in the course?
- Raise one question for classroom discussion.

**Written Summary:**
You are required to submit a two-page summary (double-spaced) of your oral presentation. It must include your discussion question. This summary is due in the same class as your presentation. Late submissions will be penalized.

**B. Essay Proposal**

**Due Date:** October 7, 2008

**Length:** 12 pt font, Times New Roman, five-to-seven pages

**Worth:** 15%

Please submit two copies of your proposal

**Purpose:** The goal of this exercise is to allow you to begin to research a topic related to North American integration in preparation for your final essay, and to provide early feedback on your proposed topic and preliminary thesis. The course syllabus is a good starting point for thinking about possible essay topics. Your subsequent essay must reflect the topic outlined in the essay proposal. Essays that do not follow the initial proposal topic will be penalized.

**Task:** Your essay proposal must include:
• A statement of topic. Why is this of interest to you and how does it relate to course themes?
• A preliminary thesis suggesting the directions you will pursue in this paper.
• A brief statement of why your thesis and topic is significant. Why is it important?
• A brief summary of what you have learned regarding key issues and debates in the relevant scholarly literature.
• A brief statement of how you plan to carry out the rest of your research.
• A bibliography that includes five scholarly sources not covered in the required readings. These five sources (the bibliography can include more) must be accompanied by a brief description of why they are relevant to your proposed topic.

C. Research Essay

Due Date: November 25, 2008.
Worth: 35%
Length: 12 – 15 pages (3,000 to 3,750 words)

Purpose: The purpose of the essay is to provide you with an opportunity to develop the topic identified in your initial research proposal into a comprehensive, scholarly research paper.

Marking: The paper will be marked on three criteria:
• Argument, organization and logic. Is the thesis presented in a logical and convincing manner?
• Research and use of evidence: Does the paper contain extensive and effective use of available research sources? Does it contain proper footnotes/endnotes and bibliographic style?
• Communication: Is the paper organized and written as clearly and concisely as possible?

D. Seminar Participation

Worth: 15%
This class runs as a seminar based discussion. Students should come to class having completed the required reading in advance. Your active and thoughtful participation is important to the learning process. Attendance counts in the assessment of participation and attendance will be taken in each class. Seminar assessment will be based on the following broad guidelines

Grades:
A +
• Attendance – Always
• Completed all the readings and is well prepared for class
• Draws connections between readings and course themes
• Offers excellent assessment on individual readings
• Provides original ideas on weekly topic
• Generates topical class discussion
• Always has insights on topic but is careful not to dominate discussion
• Asks relevant and topical questions

A/A-
• Attendance – Perfect or near-perfect
• Completed all the readings and is prepared for class
• Draws links between readings and course themes
• Offers very good assessments on individual readings and is a frequent participant
• Generates topical class discussion
• Asks relevant and topical questions

B+
• Attendance – Near-perfect
• Completed all the readings and is prepared for class
• Offers useful observations of weekly reading
• Regular participant in weekly discussions

B/B-
• Attendance – Regular
• Completed most of the readings
• Good understandings of the theme of the required readings but may not always draw links between them
• Regular participant in discussion

C
• Attendance – Regular (or erratic)
• Has completed some of the required readings
• Does not actively participate in class discussion (or participation may not always reference weekly topic and/or substantive themes of reading)
• Oral contributions are sometimes off topic

D (or less)
• Both attendance and participation erratic

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**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities 9500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, for April examinations.”

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic...
requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the
after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.