

Last updated January 7, 2014

**POL 477 H1(S)**

**2013-2014**

**Advanced Topics in International Political Economy:**

***Looking South while Looking North:  
Mexico's Engagement with Overlapping Regionalism***

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This small but intense course is designed to foster the academic skills of a limited group of undergraduates who already have outstanding academic records and have done enough secondary research on a specific issue relating to Mexico's position in the international political economy that they can move to a higher level by engaging in primary research on their particular question.

Students can qualify who have already produced a secondary-sourced paper of A quality in the fall term of 2013 for Pol. **487 H1F** on some aspect of Mexico's political and/or economic position in the mental health Pacific Alliance (PA).

Individually, they will each work separately with Professor Clarkson to raise their texts to a professional level in order to submit a manuscript to an academic journal for peer review.

As a group, they will also meet regularly with the instructor to consider the general questions raised by doing fieldwork, to discuss how to access primary sources, to review individual students' research problems, and to develop a group consciousness for this collaborative enterprise.

The group meetings will also prepare students for pursuing their research during Reading Week which will be spent in Mexico City consulting with officials in the Mexican government, experts in Mexican universities' departments of economics and political science, and senior figures in civil-society organizations such as NGOs or business *camaras* (Chambers of Commerce).

At the same time, they will work together with their professor to produce a long Working Paper that condenses their individual research findings into a general text analyzing Mexico's overlapping participation as a dependent partner in NAFTA but a dominant partner in the PA, whose prospects as a new kind of regional grouping, which only includes like-minded states, the project will also assess.

The group will meet on Sunday evenings with Professor Clarkson who will set up the program for the group's research in the Federal District during Reading Week, February 2014.

### **Deadlines and Mark allocations**

As detailed below, each student's work will be weighted 75 per cent in terms of his/her written output and 25 per cent for his/her contribution to the team's general understanding of Chile and his/her performance during the meetings with experts in Santiago:

#### Participation in fieldwork Feb. 15-22

contribution to the team's general understanding of Mexico's use of regionalism	10 per cent
performance during the meetings with experts in Mexico City	<u>15 per cent</u>
sub total	<b><i>25 per cent</i></b>

#### Written deliverables

	<u>Date due</u>	<u>Coefficient</u>
Critique of own background paper from POL 487 H1(F) plus work plan for primary research in winter term	Jan. 5	5 per cent
One-page abstract of research	Jan 12	10 per cent
draft research paper	Feb. 2	10 per cent
7,000-word draft manuscript for academic-journal submission	March 14	10 per cent
2,000 word section for Working Paper	March 28	10 per cent
7,000-word re-worked academic-journal submission	April 6	<u>30 per cent</u>
sub total		<b><i>75 per cent</i></b>
Grand total		<b><u>100 per cent</u></b>