COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In an era of globalization, free trade, and increasing integration between Mexico and the United States, several areas of American (Mexican) public policy are influenced by Mexican (American) politics and Mexican (U.S.) economic development. This is particularly evident in the Mexico-U.S. border region. Among the policy areas in the Mexico-U.S. border region mostly influenced by politics and socioeconomic developments in the two countries are: social policy, immigration policy, national security, public health and environmental policies.

This graduate level course examines the political dynamics and the main policy issues in the Mexico-U.S. border region today. For this purpose, we will first review the historic, geographic, demographic, cultural, economic, social and political dimensions of the Mexico-U.S. border region. We will particularly assess the economic conditions, governance structures, social policy issues, and binational relations in the border region. Then, we will analyze border politics and policy in the following 6 areas: 1) economic development, 2) labor, 3) migration, 4) public health, 5) the environment, and 6) security.

The material for some sessions of the course will be complemented by presentations of guest speakers who are specialists or practitioners in key areas of public policy in the Mexico-U.S. border region.
READING MATERIALS

The required readings listed below each class are essential to understand the course. The recommended readings list provides supplementary materials to pursue topics in greater depth for your final papers, oral presentations and independent study. The online links represent additional sources of information.

Books can be ordered directly from the publishers, or from Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders, etc. There is a book order for this specific course at Barnes & Noble (required texts).

REQUIRED TEXTS:


RECOMMENDED TEXTS:


**ADDITIONAL READING MATERIAL:**

In addition to the required and recommended texts, there are a number of articles available on-line through UTB library. Further readings will be posted on Blackboard, so be sure to check UTB’s website often.

[These materials will be posted one week in advance of the relevant session]

See also:
• U.S.-Mexico Border Issues: A Selected Bibliography from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries' Collections: (Compiled by Celia C. Perez; Smithsonian Institution Libraries Intern; University of South Florida; School of Library and Information Science; Summer 2000: http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/us-mexico-border-issues.htm

• UCSB Border Studies Bibliography: http://research.ucsb.edu/ccs/biblio.pdf