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Insecurity in Mexico: contemporary issues on violence and migration

Syllabus

Start: May 14, 2024

End: June 11, 2024

Schedule: Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (Polish Time)

Mode: Online

Course Description:

This course addresses topics belonging to the political science field regarding one of the most important problems in the Mexican government's agenda and a key issue in the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States of America in the 2020s. Organized crime, expressed in homicides and violence, has bereft Mexico since 2006 and posed one of the main worries for a good functioning economy and abiding law citizens. This course will elucidate the main components of this complex problem and the side effects of the Transnational Criminal Organizations.

Prerequisites: excellent analytical, basic statistics, advanced English, and fluent communications skills

Objectives:

Students will analyze the phenomenon of organized crime in Mexico and its relationship with violence and migration to place it in the global arena.

Students will investigate whether there is a relationship between drug trafficking, violence, migration, and the fentanyl crisis.

Students will debate about the role of democratic systems and the responsibility of pharmaceutical corporations in the drug crisis.

Students will debate the current migration crisis and how governments tackle the problem.

Contents:

- I. Transnational Criminal Organizations
 - a. A brief history of Drug Cartel's evolution (from Columbia to Mexico)
 - b. Mexican organized crime

- c. Cartel del Pacifico and Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generación
- II. Migration crisis in the 2020s
 - a. Violence, poverty, and climate change
 - b. USA demographics
 - c. Migration waves, routes, and political changes
- III. U.S. Migration Policy
 - a. From Donald Trump's wall to Joseph Biden
 - b. Fentanyl overdose crisis
 - c. Migration and Mexican Drug Cartels: US-Mexico Agenda
 - d. Invasion or human catastrophe?
- IV. Mexico's insecurity problem
 - a. Homicides and government spending in security forces
 - b. Conflict zones and corruption
 - c. The case of Guanajuato
- V. Data on murder and violence
 - a. Basics statistics
 - b. Canonical correlation
 - c. Principal components analysis

Teaching methods

The teacher will perform key presentations related to the topics and coordinate discussion among the students based on the papers they will be assigned to present.

Students will write a one-page report about a paper previously discussed with the teacher. This report will have the shape of a newspaper column. Simple space, 11 Times Roman, title, name, date, and references. The content should be structured into an introduction, main findings, and results or conclusions.

Evaluation

Presentations:	30%
Weekly reports:	30%
Final exam*:	40%

*The final exam will be oral

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Recommended Literature

- Barrera, A. G. (2020, July). Before COVID-19, more Mexicans came to the U.S. than left for Mexico for the first time in years. *Pew Research Center*, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/07/09/before-covid-19-more-mexicans-came-to-the-u-s-than-left-for-mexico-for-the-first-time-in-years/#:~:text=The%20main%20change%20in%20net,The%20number%20of%20Mexican%20immigrants.>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, May 12). *Drug Overdose Deaths*. Retrieved from Drug Overdose Deaths Remain High: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>
- Douglas S Massey, J. S. (2010). The Geography of Undocumented Mexican Migration. *NIH Public Acces Mex Stud*, 10.1525/msem.2010.26.1.129.
- Drug Enforcement Administration. (2021). *National Drug Threat Assessment*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Gerardo Reyes Guzman, A. S. (2021). Guanajuato: A Struggle to Control Oil Theft. *AARMS*, <https://folyoirat.ludovika.hu/index.php/aarms/article/view/5749>.
- Gerardo Reyes Guzman, M. E. (2022). México: Remesas, el crimen organizado y la crisis de sobredosis de drogas en Estados Unidos en las zonas fronterizas (2015-2021)México: Remesas, el crimen organizado y la crisis de sobredosis de drogas en Estados Unidos en las zonas fronterizas (2015-2021. *Norteamerica*, <https://doi.org/10.22201/cisan.24487228e.2023.1.602>.
- Migration Policy Institute. (2023, Agosto 10). *Migration Data Hub*. Retrieved from Global Remittances Guide: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/global-remittances-guide>
- Salcedo, D. C. (2013). Mexican Migration to the United States: Underlying Economic Factors and Possible Scenarios for Future Flows. *Banco de Mexico Working Papers No. 2013-20*, <https://www.banxico.org.mx/publications-and-press/banco-de-mexico-working-papers/%7B277A15D7-3934-82D3-D760-AF02B8BF8037%7D.pdf>.
- (2023). *U.S. Population Trends Return to Pre-Pandemic Norms as More States Gain Population*. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/population-trends-return-to-pre-pandemic-norms.html>: U.S. Census Bureau.