**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK**

**NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY, YUMA BRANCH CAMPUS**

**SOC 301 TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES: LATIN AMERICA**

1. **Catalog Description:** Examines selected social issues in contemporary societies.
2. **Prerequisites:** None
3. **Course Credits:** 3 Semester Credits
4. **Course Description:** This course will survey some of the most important social problems of Latin America, with an emphasis on problems which directly affect peoples of the region, including the United States. The historical background of various countries will be examined insofar as it illuminates contemporary issues. Key problems to be studied include such issues as the drug trade, poverty, immigration, land inequality, political violence (especially in Colombia), human rights, and economic dependency. Changes in U.S. policy towards Latin America will also be considered.
5. **Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of the semester the student will be able to:
6. Recognize the extent to which a culture’s structures and values may oppress, marginalize, alienate, or create or enhance privilege and power.
7. Gain sufficient self-awareness to eliminate the influence of personal biases and values in working with diverse groups.
8. Recognize and communicate their understanding of the importance of difference in shaping life experiences.
9. View themselves as learners and engage those with whom they work as informants.
10. Advocate for human rights and social and economic justice.
11. Engage in practices that advance social and economic justice.
12. Analyzecontemporary issues affecting the Latin American region, including their relative priority.
13. Write effectively about social issues of the region, including relevant policies of the United States.
14. **Course Materials:** Skidmore, T.E., Smith, P.H., & Green, J.N. (2010). Modern Latin America, (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. Camp, R.A. (2011). Mexico: What everyone needs to know. New York: Oxford University Press. Rodriguez, C. (2011). Citizen’s media against armed conflict: Disrupting violence in Colombia. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. Other required readings may be placed on reserve in the library.
15. **Teaching Methods:** Each class will include presentation of content and discussion of required reading. Student participation is integral to learning the course material.
16. **Evaluation Tools:** Student learning outcomes will be evaluated by the following methods:
17. **Exams:** Three exams worth 50 points each will be given throughout the semester.
18. **Class Project:** Students will engage in a class project worth 20 points.
19. **Paper:** Students will submit a written paper worth 30 points.
20. **Course Content:**
21. Why Latin America?
22. The Colonial Foundations
23. Strategies for Economic Development
24. Chile: Repression and Democracy
25. Mexico: The Taming of a Revolution
26. Mexico: Development and Current Issues
27. Central America and the Caribbean
28. Colombia: Fifty Years of Violence
29. Colombia and the New World Order
30. Brazil: The Awakening Giant
31. Argentina and the Andes
32. Culture & Society in Latin America and the U.S.