

## LAS 459

# OAS FIELD STUDY—MÉXICO

Spring, 2006

**The Organization of American States Model Assembly** involves Plattsburgh State University representing a country assigned by the Maya Model OAS staff in Washington, D.C.—this year, **México**. This course aims to:

1. Contribute to the student's integration of knowledge about Latin America generally, and one country more specifically.
2. Develop the student's understanding of Inter-American relations.
3. Prepare students for participation in the OAS Model Assembly.
4. Enhance the student's skills in writing, reasoning, argumentation, and verbal expression.

### Readings

Daniel Levy and Kathleen Bruhn: Mexico: The Struggle for Democratic Development (Berkeley, CA: University of California, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2005), PB ISBN# 0-520-24694-2

OAS Documents and Reports (by committee, and individually)

Materials from Embassies

Articles from Scholarly Journals (two assigned, others as needed)

Information of the World Wide Web (including newspaper articles)

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## COURSE OUTLINE

### Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

January 23: "Introduction to the Model OAS"

January 25: "Organizing Mexican History"

January 30: "Issues Facing México"—Group Analysis

#### **Week in Review Discussion**

*READINGS:* Levy/Bruhn, Rhett, Mexico, first half.

- February 1: “Mexico in the World Economy”—Prof. Ellen Fitzpatrick
- February 6: “Contemporary Mexican Politics”—Prof. William Culver  
 “Tutorial in Inter-American Materials on the Internet” 3-4 p.m.  
**Week in Review Discussion**

*READINGS:* Levy/Bruhn, México, second half

**ASSIGNMENT: Two-Page Abstract of México: Development (due, 2/8)**

**The Organization of American States**

- February 8: “The Historical Development of the OAS”
- February 13: “The OAS as a Working Institution”  
**Week in Review Discussion**

**ASSIGNMENT: Abstract (each 150-200 words) One Report and One Document From the OAS Website, Applicable to Your Committee’s Agenda Topics (due, 2/15).**

- February 15: “The Art of Questioning” (optional for veteran delegates)  
 “Analyzing an Argument”

**ASSIGNMENT: Three-Page Essay on the Historical Forces and Current Issues Facing México and Connect It to the OAS Charter and Agenda Topics, as Applied to Your Committee (due, 2/22) POI contact Mexican Mission (Washington) to identify mission specialists and acquire preliminary information on agenda topics.**

- February 22: “Preparing Questions for Ottawa”  
**Week in Review Discussion**

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February 23-24: **TRIP TO OTTAWA**

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**Practicum in OAS Formal Sessions**

- February 27: “How to Write and Analyze Resolutions”

**ASSIGNMENT: Select and Hand in a Resolution from prior MOAS, to be questioned on March 5.**

March 1: “Core of OAS Committee Sessions—Resolutions, Speakers’ List, and Questions through the Chair”

**Week in Review Discussion**

**ASSIGNMENT: Contact Mexican Mission for specifics on resolution and agenda-topic positions.**

March 5: “Questions through the Chair” At Instructor’s Home (3-7 p.m.)

**ASSIGNMENT: Read all resolutions, formulating questions for each; be prepared to handle up to 15 minutes of questioning for the resolution you selected (for session on March 5)**

March 6: “**DISCUSSION** of Resolution Ideas”;

March 8: “Practicing Parliamentary Maneuvers in Mock Session”

**Week in Review Discussion**

**ASSIGNMENT: Submit Outline of Resolution (document sources, evidence/ examples, tentative resolves**

**ASSIGNMENT: 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Resolution (due March 15 by e-mail)**

March 20: “Practicing Parliamentary Maneuvers in Mock Session”

March 22: “**DISCUSSION** of Agenda Positions by Committee”

**Week in Review Discussion**

**ASSIGNMENT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Resolution (due March 22 on disk and paper)**

March 27: “Practicing Speech Delivery”

March 29: “Practicing Parliamentary Maneuvers in Mock Session”

**Week in Review Discussion**

**ASSIGNMENT: Abstract Two Scholarly Journal Articles on México or Agenda Topics (due March 29).**

April 3: “Present and Debate Resolutions in Mock Session” Delegates

April 5: “Present and Debate Resolutions in Mock Session” Alternates

**ASSIGNMENT: Hand in the position of your Committee on each agenda topic (at least ½ page each) (due April 5 by e-mail)  
Present supportive speech and defend resolution (April 3, 5)**

April 7: “Last Minute Preparations for Washington”

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**OAS MODEL ASSEMBLY**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**April 8-13**

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April 24: “Review and Evaluation” 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
 “Mock Debate for North Country High School MOAS Students 10-11 a.m.

**Reading and Research**

The Feinberg Library has an extensive guide for Latin America. **1)** There are documents for each committee from past 20 Model Assemblies, and there are monthly back copies of the Latin American Press Clippings Service, Latin American Weekly Report, and Latinoamericana Press in the LAS Office [NOTE: Latinamericana Press is online through Library webpage]. **2)** In addition, you are to maintain (or prepare, if needs be) a folder with the OAS Charter, Declarations and Plans of Action of the Five Summits of the Americas, other materials from the OAS, and the Rules/Procedures of the Model, and know how to use them. **3)** Besides the common readings, you are responsible for securing and knowing all documents and reports on the OAS web-page that pertain to your committee. **4)** You will also need to scan the internet for information, especially Mexican newspaper articles—a list of web sites will be handed out (the Public Information Officer will assist you in this). With such abundant and disparate materials, abstracting and organizing them will be essential. Your performance in the mock sessions on campus and at the Model will depend on your ability to think through, assimilate, and integrate these materials, directing them to the task at hand, whether that be writing a resolution, speaking in formal session, caucusing with other delegates, or questioning diplomats.

**Grading**

<b>Preparations for the Model</b> (points totaled, converted to letter grade)	2/3
--2-Page Abstract, <u>Mercosur: Regional Integration</u>	(10 pts.)
--3-Page Comparative Essay, on OAS-Mexican Issues	(10 pts.)
--2 Document/Report, 2 Scholarly Journal Arts. (5 pts. each)	(20 pts.)
--Defend (5 pts.), and question selected resolutions (5 pts.)	(10 pts.)
--Ottawa Trip (questioning)	(15 pts.)
-- <i>Delegates:</i> 1st Draft of Resolution	( 5 pts.)
<i>PIO:</i> Draft of Thank-you Letters to Embassies	
-- <i>Delegates:</i> 2nd Draft of Resolution	(10 pts.)
<i>PIO:</i> Draft of Press Release of Ottawa Trip	
-- <i>Delegates:</i> Position Paper on Agenda Topics	(10 pts.)
<i>PIO:</i> Draft of Press Release of MOAS	
--Participation in Week in Review Discussions	(10 pts.)

**Performance at the Model** (given letter grade)

1/3

--*Delegates*: Based on assistance to alternate/delegate and the delegation as a whole, activity in caucusing, final draft of resolution, presentation and defense of resolution, shaping of other resolutions, questioning and speakers' list statements, questioning of and communication with the embassy. A daily journal and portfolio will be kept and, along with Resolution Booklets (in which will be written, at the minimum, the vote on each resolution, explanation of position taken in support or opposition), will be reviewed by the instructor.

--*PIO*: Advanced preparations for the Model, setting up and overseeing use of the computers, overseeing group editing and the printing of all resolutions (re-typing when requested), maintenance of communications among delegates in committee sessions and assisting them, writing of a press release, assisting any delegate running for Model office (speeches, campaigning, etc.), managing logistics in the hotel. A daily journal and portfolio will be kept and will be reviewed by the instructor.

--**All Students in LAS459 will submit a portfolio** of their direct/official actions, actual or summarized (speeches, amendments, working group resolutions), **and a daily journal of significant activities** (reflections on significant things that you did or experienced).

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 1:30-4 p.m.; Thursdays, 12:30-4:30 p.m., by appointment

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