Sample Abstracts 7/21/11

***Levantamientos y Elecciones*:**

**Indigenous Social Movements and Political Participation in Ecuador and Bolivia**

Angelina Lopez (Research Paper)

Since 2000, Ecuadorian and Bolivian indigenous struggles have achieved a great deal of enfranchisement for indigenous peoples. I argue that the two change agents of social movements and political parties needed both the mechanisms of popular mobilization (levantamientos) and of elections (elecciones) to produce initial improvements in indigenous enfranchisement. While the Ecuadorian movements and parties relied more centrally on indigenous discourse, their Bolivian counterparts combined the struggles over coca and indigenous discourse. Both countries’ struggles made more gains for enfranchisement in the realms of political representation and participation than in access to basic services or self-determination. To be effective, both mechanisms depended on support beyond indigenous voices, calling for widespread social justice and popular control of government. Indigenous social movements and political participation have re-sculpted precedent 500 years in the making in their difficult and on-going struggle for justice.

**Challenges to a Hemispheric Power:**

**Explaining International Influence of Latin American Leaders**

Matthew Stone (Capstone Project)

This paper argues that a Latin American leader who opposes U.S. design for the region attains international influence if he meets two critical conditions, but not to the exclusion of other, less critical factors that I consider. In concert with the Latin American tradition of personalism, the first condition dictates that the leader must comply with Weber’s model of charismatic authority. In complying with this model, it can be assured that the leader has sufficient support at home such that he can look beyond the affairs of domestic administration. The second condition that I consider most critical requires that the leader maintain favorable relations with his country’s military forces even if the government is not a military government. I argue these points in part based on the outcome of Fidel Castro’s rule. I apply findings from his rule to explain the international influence or lack thereof of four other Latin American leaders: Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, Salvador Allende of Chile, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Jacobo Arbenz of Guatemala.

**Beyond Corporatism and Liberalism:**

**State and Civil Society in Cooperation in Nicaragua**

Hannah Pallmeyer (Honors Thesis)

The Nicaraguan state has historically attempted to control Nicaraguan civil society using corporatist and liberal-democratic frameworks. This has created a difficult organizing environment for civil society organizations to struggle for social change. In this thesis, I argue that civil society organizations, operating in 2008 in a corporatist or liberal framework, were less effective in achieving national social change than organizations that worked cooperatively with the state, yet maintained some autonomy. This hypothesis is developed using the case study of three water rights organizations, and is further tested using the case of corporatist-structured Citizen Power Councils, created in 2007.