RPOS 357: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

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Location: HU 128
Time: TuTh 2:45-4:05
Office Hours (in HU 016):
TuTh: 1:30-2:30
or by appointment

Course Description. This course introduces students to the contemporary politics of Latin America. The first part of the course briefly examines the region’s colonial history and movements for independence. The remainder of the course proceeds chronologically through major phases of political and economic development in the 20th and 21st centuries, beginning with industrialization and the incorporation of popular sectors in the 1930s and 1940s, and ending with the rise to power of the left. Major topics covered include populism and corporatism, dependency theory and import-substitution industrialization, revolutions and insurgencies, the breakdown of democracy, military rule and other forms of authoritarianism, democratization, economic crises, market reforms (neoliberalism), social movements, inequality, migration, corruption, and justice reforms. Students will be asked to discern among competing explanations of major phenomena, including approaches that emphasize the causal role of culture, institutions, macro-analytic political economy (structuralism), and micro-analytic political economy (rationalism). Throughout the semester we will draw on examples from the entire region, from the Southern Cone to the Rio Bravo. Knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese is not required.

Pre-requisites. There are no pre-requisites for this course. However, Introduction to Comparative Politics is strongly recommended.

Readings

Readings. The main texts for this course are:

   - Referred to as “SSG” below; previous editions do not have same content

Used and new copies of these books are available at Mary Jane's bookstore and at various online booksellers. These books will be supplemented periodically with journal articles and other short pieces. Please see the class schedule below for a detailed list of the reading assignments. Articles and other short pieces are available on Blackboard and/or via the electronic databases that can be accessed through the library (e.g., JSTOR). Where otherwise unavailable, I will provide these materials for you. We meet two times per week, and you should read ahead for each class.
Grading

- Questions: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Mid-term: 25%
- Topic Paper Assignment (45% total)
  - Topic Paper Outline: 10%
  - Topic Paper Comments: 10%
  - Topic Paper (final): 25%

Questions and Quizzes. Active engagement with the material is critical to your success in class. Generally, you need to encounter the material at least three times in order for you to understand it in any depth. For some people, this may be easy to do independently. However, for most people, the easiest and fastest way to encounter the material three times is to (1) read for class, (2) participate in class discussions, and (3) write notes, outline, or review the material for an exam. Therefore, staying current with the reading and participating in class put you in a much better position to work with the material when you take an exam or write a paper later in the course.

Considering the importance of participation and active engagement with the materials, several elements of the course are designed to encourage you to come prepared for each day of class. Two of these components are Reading Questions and Reading Quizzes. Aside from the first day, you are responsible for submitting three questions related to that day’s assigned reading on every Tuesday that we have class. These are questions of your own that occur to you as you are doing the reading. You do not need to answer the questions. These questions should be considered written assignments, and should be submitted to me within the first five (5) minutes of class each Tuesday.

Separately, I will toss a coin at the start of class each Thursday to determine if there will be a quiz. If the result is heads, there will be a short quiz on the reading for that day. If the result is tails, there will be no quiz. If you have done the reading for that day, you should not have any trouble with the quiz. I will collect all quizzes within the first five minutes of class.

Each set of questions and quiz is worth 4 points (1 for turning something in and 3 for content). If you are present but did not complete any questions or cannot answer the quiz, at least turn in a paper with your name on it so that you get credit for being present.

No late questions or quizzes will be accepted. Either you are there to turn in the questions or take the quiz, or you are not. Collected questions and quizzes will count towards a total of 20% of your final grade.

Mid-Term. There is a mid-term exam on Thursday, March 28, that will cover all the material up to that point.

Paper. A 5-page topic paper is required for this class. The paper is actually an assignment in three parts. Part 1: you must submit an outline (with at least two new references) for this
Paper on [see class schedule below for date]. The outline should consist of at least two, single-spaced pages, and be annotated to provide sufficient detail, and you should have a separate list of references at the end. Please submit four copies of this document – one is for me and three are for three of your colleagues. I will distribute the three extra copies in class the same day. Part2: your comments on three of your colleague’s outlines are due the following [see class schedule below for date]. These comments must be typed separately so that your classmate can read them easily, and you should provide at least one, double-spaced page of comments relevant to the material in each outline. Please submit two copies of each set of these comments (6 pages total) so that I can receive one copy for grading and your colleague can receive a copy of their own. Part3: using the comments from three of your classmates, revise your outline and write your final paper; the final paper is due on the last day of class [see class schedule below].

Each paper should follow the structure set out in the detailed document on paper instructions, which I will distribute later in the semester. Make sure you refer to this document in preparing your work for this assignment. We will also discuss the instructions in greater detail in class.

Additionally, make sure to cite all sources properly and include a bibliography. Papers should be double spaced, and use 1-inch margins and 12-point, Times New Roman font.

I have provided some helpful resources on how to write social science papers online, as well as sources on how to read nonfiction books for content (i.e., quickly).

Note that the second part of the paper assignment involves commenting on three (3) of your colleagues’ work. Your comments should offer constructive feedback that will help strengthen your paper, just as you expect to receive three sets of comments that will strengthen your paper. Also, your comments are being evaluated. Thus, as you make your comments, you should refer to the instructions for the paper identified above and make at least one comment on each component, gauging how well your colleague has addressed each section. For instance, is the research topic clearly stated? Is it clear why this topic is important or interesting? Further detail on this assignment will be covered in class.

Email. I expect you to check your email. You are responsible for material sent by email.

Late Work and Missed Assignments. All work must be turned in within the first 5 minutes of class on the day it is due, or by 5pm if there is no class on the due date. Without a legitimate (e.g., medical or family emergency) and documented explanation, late work will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late, and it is considered late if turned in beyond the time limits above (i.e., after the first 5 minutes of class, or after 5pm on days there is no class; this includes weekends and holidays). Daily questions and quizzes must be turned in at the beginning of class – no exceptions. No late exams will be given.

Academic Integrity. All students must familiarize themselves with the Standards of Academic Integrity on the University’s website and pledge to observe its tenets in all written and oral work, including oral presentations, quizzes and exams, and drafts and final

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner.

**Miscellaneous.** If you feel you need any help or simply want clarification on any of the material, please do not hesitate to raise your question in class or approach me outside of class. I will hold regular office hours throughout the summer session. If you cannot arrange to come talk with me during these hours, please call or email me, or contact the Department of Political Science administrative offices, so that we can set up an appointment.

### CLASS SCHEDULE

#### WEEK 1 (Jan 24)

**I. Introduction**

Introductions; overview of course content and expectations
- Political and economic development inextricably linked
  - Politics → Economics
  - Economics → Politics

#### WEEK 2 (Jan 28 and 30)

**II. Latin American Development: From Colonialism to Neoliberalism**

- **Required:**
  - Skidmore, Smith, and Green (SSG): pp. 1-13 (ch1); 13-41 (ch2).
  - SSG: ch12 and ch 13
- **Recommended:**
  - Skidmore and Smith (2005, 6th ed.), pp. 42-68 (ch3)
  - Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, Modern Latin America (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) chapters 3-6 and 8 (background on Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Mexico).Recommended reading
  - USAID Strategic Framework 2010 (pp. 1-20) (also at: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/technical_areas/rule_of_law)
    - Peter Evans. “Collective Capabilities, Culture, and Amartya Sen’s *Development as Freedom.*”
    - Frances Stewart and Severine Deneulin. “Amartya Sen’s Contribution to Development Thinking.”


WEEK 3 (Feb 5 and 7)
III. ISI and Dependency Theory
• Required:
  
  
  
  

WEEK 4 (Feb 12 and 14)
IV. Incorporation of Popular Sectors
• Required
  
  
  
  
  
  • Recommended:
    
    

WEEK 5 (Feb 19 and 21)
V. Revolutionaries and Guerrillas
• Required:


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**WEEK 6 (Feb 26 and 28)**

**VI. Breakdown of Democracy**

- **Required:**

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**WEEK 7 (Mar 5 and 7)**

**VII. Military Rule and its Legacies**

- **Required:**

- **Recommended:**
WEEK 8 (Mar 12 and 14)

VIII. Democratization

- Required:

- Recommended:
  - Constable and Valenzuela, *A Nation of Enemies*, Chapter 12

WEEK 9 (Mar 19 and 21)

NO CLASS (Spring Break)
WEEK 10 (Mar 26 and 28)
IX. Institutions of Democratic Politics

*** Mid-term Exam this Thursday, Mar 28, in class ***

- Required
  - Steven Levitsky and Maxwell Cameron, “Democracy without Parties? Political Parties and Regime Change in Fujimori’s Peru,” *Latin American Politics and Society* 45:3 (Fall 2003).

- Recommended
  - Jeffrey Weldon, “Political Sources of Presidencialismo in Mexico,” in Mainwaring and Shugart, eds. *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

*** SUGGESTED MOVIE: Our Brand is Crisis ***

WEEK 11 (Apr 2 and 4)
X. Debt Crisis and Market Reform

- Required:
WEEK 12 (Apr 9 and 11)
XI. After the Washington Consensus: Assessing the Impact of Market Reform
  • Required:

WEEK 13 (Apr 16 and 18 and 23)
XII. Rise of the Left
  • Required:
    o Kurt Weyland, “The Left: Destroyer or Savior of the Market Model?,” in Levitsky and Roberts, 71-92
    o Margarita Lopez Maya, “Venezuela: Hugo Chavez and the Populist Left”, in Levitsky and Roberts, 213-238
    o Wendy Hunter, “Brazil: The PT in Power” in Levitsky and Roberts, 306-324
    o Maxwell Cameron, “Peru: The Left Turn That Wasn’t”, in Levitsky and Roberts, 375-398
    o Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts, eds. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), pp. 1-30 (Conclusion) pp. 399-427 (read the conclusion once you have read the rest of texts above)
  • Recommended:
    o Raúl Madrid, “The Origins of the Two Lefts in Latin America,” *Political Science Quarterly* 125:4 (winter 2010-2011)

WEEK 14 (Apr 25)
XIII: Country Cases
  - Required:
    o SSG: Mexico (ch3)

WEEK 15 (Apr 30 and May 2)
XIV: Country Cases, cont.
  - Required:
    o SSG: Argentina (ch9)
    o SSG: Brazil (ch11)

WEEK 16 (May 7) *** last day of classes ***
XV: Wrap up and Review
  - Required reading:
    o SSG: read only “Politics and Policy” sections from ch4 (Central America and the Caribbean) and ch6 (Andes)

Additional Resources:

(1) Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
  - http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/
(2) Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA)
  - http://www.brasa.org/
(3) New England Council on Latin American Studies (NECLAS)
  - http://www.neclas.org/
(4) Mid-Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies (MACLAS)
  - http://www.macaclas.org/
(5) Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS)
  - http://www.mtsu.edu/secolas/about.php
(6) Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies (RMCLAS)
  - http://www.rmclas.org/
(7) Southwest Council on Latin American Studies (SCOLAS)
  - http://www.modlang.txstate.edu/secolas/About-SCOLAS.html
(8) Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies (PCCLAS)
(9) Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)
  - http://lanic.utexas.edu/
(10) Political Database of the Americas (PDBA, at Georgetown University)
    - http://pdba.georgetown.edu/CLAS%20RESEARCH/PDBA.html#site-title
(11) North American Congress on Latin America
http://www.nacla.org/

(12) Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals
- Latin American Research Review (LARR)
- Latin American Politics and Society (LAPS)
- Journal of Latin American Studies (JLAS)
- Journal of Politics in Latin America (JPLA)