

State University of New York at Albany

Course Outline

**Political Science 357
Latin American and Caribbean Politics**

**Professor Salvador Rivera, PhD
Fall, 2011**

Course description:

This course will examine the political evolution of Latin America and its political institutions. It will also analyze the foreign relations of the region with other states utilizing an inter-disciplinary approach from history, international relations and political science.

The course is intended to provide students with the knowledge needed to understand major developments in Latin American society regarding its history, political systems institutions, social, cultural and economic development. It will examine contemporary and future trends, i.e., human rights advances, democracy, and the further incorporation of the region into the global economy. This course fulfills the “Regions Beyond Europe” requirement.

II. Course Objectives.

- A. To advance the reconceptualization of Latin America among students.
- B. Student should understand the relationship between environment, technology, culture and political and economic development of Latin American societies and civilization.
- C. Students should become familiar with Latin American institutions.
- D. Students should be able to recognize various ideological perspectives in the academic literature.
- E. To allow students the ability to compare and contrast political institutions of Latin America and the United States.
- F. The elimination of Hispanophobia

III. Course Plan.

The course will be conducted using a combination of lecture, discussion, a research assignment and exams.

IV. Required Texts/Readings

1. Carlos Scartascini, Ernesto Stein and Mariano Tommasi, ed. How Democracy Works: Political Institutions, Actors and Arenas in Latin American Policy Making, Washington: Inter-American Development Bank and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, 2010. ISBN-9781597821094
2. Skidmore, Smith and Green Modern Latin America (7thed) New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

3. Philip Wayne Powell. Tree of Hate: Propaganda and Prejudices Affecting United States Relations with the Hispanic World. 13th ed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008.

V. Suggested readings.

The following books are **not required**. They are suggested only for individuals interested in further background material. These texts are classics for anyone seeking a keener understanding of Latin America's political and cultural evolution.

Bakewell, Peter. A History of Latin America 3rd ed, London: Blackwell Publishing, 2010.

Crow, John. The Epic of Latin America 4th ed. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1992.

VI. Additional Readings

A few of these articles are required, others are for those interested in further research.

***An asterisk denotes required reading.**

Colburn, Forrest D. (2002) "The Poor" In *Latin America at the End of Politics*, **81-87**. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Cruz, Consuelo and Rut Diamint (1998) "The New Military Autonomy in Latin American Polity" *Journal of Democracy* 9, no. 4: 115-126

Davis, Diane E. 2006. "The Age of Insecurity: Violence and Social Disorder in the New Latin America" *Latin American Research Review* 41 (February), 178-197

*De la Reza, German A. "The Divide between New and Old Regionalism: An Analytical Framework." *Asian Journal of Latin America Studies* 23. no.2:181-201.

Faure, A.M. (1994). Some Methodological Problems in Comparative Politics, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 6(3): 307-322

*Gallagher, Daniel. "The Concept of Development in Catholic Social Teaching and the Church in Latin America." *The Latin Americanist* Fall, 2008, 50: 49-74

Gardini, Gian Luca. 2010. "Executive-Legislature Relations in Foreign Policy: A Case Study in Incipient Regional Integration." *Bulletin of Latin America Research* 29 .no 2: 224-237.

Gilbreth, Chris and Otero, Gerardo (2001) "Democratization in Mexico: The Zapatista Uprising and Civil Society" *Latin American Perspectives*, Vol. 28, No. 4, 7-29

- Hakim, Peter. (2003, April). "Dispirited Politics." *Journal of Democracy* 14, 108-122.
- Hakim, Peter. (2001, March/April) "The Uneasy Americas" *Foreign Affairs*.
- Hart-Landsberg, M. (2002). "Challenging Neoliberal Myths: A Critical Look at the Mexican Experience" *Monthly Review*. Vol.54, No. 7, December.
- Klesner, Joseph L. (2007, January) "The 2006 Mexican Elections: Manifestation of a Divided Society?" *Political Science and Politics*, Vol. XL, No. I
- Htun, Mala. "Women in Latin America: Unequal Progress toward Equality" *Current History*, March, 1999.
- Htun, Mala, (2002) "Women in Political Power in Latin America" *International IDEA* Chapter 1
- Landman, Todd (2000) *Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction*. Routledge, London and New York, Chapter 1.
- Laws, Chappell. January 2007. "How Did We Get Here? Mexican Democracy after the 2006 Elections" *Political Science and Politics*, Vol. XL, No. 1, 45-48
- Lijphart, A. (1971) "Comparative Politics and Comparative Method," *The American Political Science Review*, 65 (3): 682-693 Original statement about comparative method, locating it as non-experimental and non-statistical social science
- (1975) "The Comparable Cases Strategy in Comparative Research," *Comparative Political Studies*, 8(2): 158-177
- Murillo, M. Victoria. (2000, January) "From Populism to Neo-liberalism: Labor Unions and Market Reform in Latin America." *World Politics* 52, No.2, 135-174
- Perez, Louis A. (2002, May 1) "Fear and Loathing of Fidel Castro: Sources of U.S. Policy towards Cuba" *Journal of Latin American Studies*
- Petras, James (2009, May 13) "US-Latin American Relations in a Time of Rising Militarism, Protectionism and Pillage" *Global Research*
- *Rivarola Puntigliano, Andres and Örjan Appelqvist. "Prebisch and Myrdal: Development Economics in the core and on the periphery." *Journal of Global History* (2011) 6:29-52
- Schmitter, Philippe C. and Lyn Karl, Terry. (1991) "What Democracy Is ... and Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 2, No. 3, 73-88

*Sikkink, Kathryn. (Spring, 2008) "From Pariah State to Global protagonist: Argentina and the Struggle for International Human Rights" *Latin American Politics and Society* 50. no. 1:1-29

Skocpol, T. and Somers, M. 1980 "The Uses of Comparative History in Macro-Social Inquiry" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 22: 174-197. A good outline of the uses of comparative history and of Mill's methods of agreement and difference.

Smith, Peter H. (2005) "Transitions and Continuities" in *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 44-72. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tybut, James R. (2000) Manufacturing Firms in Developing Countries: How Well Do They Do, and Why? *Journal of Economic Literature* March: 11-44. Volume 38

Valenzuela Samuel, J. and Valenzuela A. (July 1978) "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Under-development" *Comparative Politics*, 10:4

Vazquez, Manuel A. and Phillip J. Williams. (2005, January). "The Power of Religious Identities in the Americas." *Latin American Perspectives* 32, 5-26.

Vilas, Carlos (1996, July —August) "Neoliberal Social Policy: Managing Poverty (Somehow)" 1997. *NACLA Report on the Americas*. Vol. 37 no. 1, pp 57-65.

Vilas, Carlos (1997) "Inequalities and the Dismantling of Citizenship in Latin America" *NACLA Report on the Americas*

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1997. "Eurocentrism and its Avatars: The Dilemmas of Social Science" *New Left Review*, 1/226.

Weeks, G. (2001) "Democratic Institutions and Civil-Military Relations: The Case of Chile" *Journal of Third World Studies*, 2001, Vol. 18, No. 1, pp.65-85.

Weyland, Kurt. (2004) "Neo-liberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record" *Latin American Politics and Society* 46 (Spring), 135-157.

Williamson John. (1990) "What Washington Means by Policy Reform" *Peterson Institute for International Affairs*.

Yashar, Deborah J. (1998) "Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements and Democracy in Latin America." *Comparative Politics* 31 (October), 23-42.

Zuquete, Jose Pedro. (2008) "The Missionary Politics of Hugo Chavez" *Latin American Politics and Society*, Spring, Vol. 50, Issue 1, pp. 91-121

VII. Evaluation

Evaluation of students will be based on exams, a 5 page term paper and participation as explained below.

1) There will be **two exams** weighed at 100 pts each.

2) **Term Paper:** Students are required to prepare a term paper worth 100 points dealing with any particular topic dealing with Latin American institutions/politics. Students may utilize a topic from the following disciplines; history, economics, business, international relations, or political science. You may use a case study to make a point/or utilize a theory. Students may focus on a foreign policy, a political party, a constitution, a law and the issues that surround it, etc., You need to clear the topic with the instructor. You may do a historical study on the evolution of any particular problem, solution, political institution, movement or policy as well. Your report should focus on 1) the relationship between the subject and the political realm and 2) its significance for a country or the entire region. Your term paper should have a theme/thesis. You should follow this approach with a historical explanation of the topic/issue/problem. You should also discuss some of the leading literature on the matter and discuss differences in approaches or interpretations. No late papers will be accepted. Papers should be double spaced. The **required system of citations for paper** is the Chicago Manual of Style by Kate Turabian.

3) **Oral Report.** Students will be required to do an oral presentation of their term paper worth 40 points. The presentation should be a synopsis of their work that lasts between 5 & 10 minutes. Students will inform the audience of what their paper was about (theme), what is important about the topic, what problems or areas need further investigation, what they wish they could have added to their paper and the sources they used. Students should not read from their paper. You may use notes cards or a regular outline. Preparing the oral outline in advance will help you focus on your point and the overall writing of the term paper. Students should be prepared to answer questions from the professor and fellow students

3) **Participation** is 100 pts. Student participation involves active discussion in class re: assignments. Students may also participate by bring current event items and sharing them with the class. The determination about the quality of your participation is the sole discretion of the instructor. A total of 400 pts are available. Additional assignments may be given and will be weighed in with the participation grade. Students will be advised of these and any additional changes to grading policy.

Grading Breakdown

Exams 100 points each (200 points total)-45% of grade

Term Paper 100 pts- 23% of grade

Participation 100 pts-23 % grade

Oral Report 40 pts-9% of grade

Grades will be apportioned along the letter grade +/- *spectrum* based on the number of points accumulated as follows:

353-440=A

265-352= B

177-264=C

89-176=D

0-88=E

VIII. Research Sites.

Research for current events may be gleaned from newspapers whether they are online or in print format. You may also access the embassies of various Latin American countries in the U.S. These embassy sites post the latest developments in economic and political developments. They provide insight into what government projects /agendas are important. The embassies based in the U.S. are available in both English and Spanish/Portuguese. The sites usually provide links to the web sites of other Latin-American political/economic institutions. If you can read Spanish/Portuguese, feel free to utilize these sites.

Below are some sites for your consideration.

Miami Herald

The Economist

The Latin America Network Information Center, www.lanic.utexas.edu

The Asian Journal of Latin American Studies www.ajlas.org

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) www.focal.ca

FLASCO (This is a consortium of research centers based all over Latin America) Most of their research is in Spanish. You may access their research on line.

MERCOSUR www.mercosur.int

Parliament of MERCOSUR www.parlamentodelmercosur.org

Inter-American Development Bank <http://www.hrw.org/>

Inter-American Dialogue www.idialogue.org

Official site of UNASUR www.pptunasur.com

Web sites of various Latin American Embassies in the United States

IX. Attendance Policy and Assignments.

Students will be penalized on letter grade for every three absences. Verification will be required for every absence. Legitimate absences are illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance or auto problems. Three consecutive tardies will constitute an absence. For students who live off campus, they are advised that in poor weather with icy roads, fog, or heavy snow; that they should not attempt coming to class if they feel it is too dangerous. In such cases, every effort will be made to accommodate exams or classes missed. Failure to attend class regularly is a neglect of your responsibility. Students who miss 9 classes for whatever reason will be given

an “F” for the course. There is no point assuming that a student with so many absences can pass the course. Students who anticipate missing class for any length of period should drop the course.

X. Makeup Exams

Students are expected to take exams and complete assignments as scheduled. No student should assume that he/she has an automatic right to a make-up test. The instructor may deny this privilege to any student. These students will receive a zero grade for any test/assignment missed. Students must take makeup within a week after they return.

XI. Incompletes

Incompletes are highly discouraged and will be granted only under extreme conditions. Students must arrange for incompletes ahead of time.

XII. Student Conduct (Prescriptive Norms)

1. Respect your classmates and the professor. Do not talk unless you have been recognized to talk and participate in the classroom discussion. Side comments or conversation are distracting to both students and the professor.
2. Students may bring bottles of water to class. You may not bring food.
3. Do not bring cell phones to class. Keep the vibrators off. Keep them at home where they belong.
4. Don't read your text while in class. Reading assignments should be read before class. You should take notes from your text so you may participate in discussion.
5. You are responsible for all assignments and their completion on time
6. Any behavior that disrupts the educational process shall be grounds for dismissal from class.
7. Students must be familiar with plagiarism and cheating policies of the college.
Students who plagiarize or cheat in this course will receive an “F” for the course.

XIII. Office Hours

Ph# 518-

e/mail: srivera@albany.edu

XIV: Special Note.

Course outline and assignments and grading may be changed at instructor's discretion. Students will be notified of any changes.

** Students with *special medical needs should inform the instructor*. Students with documented disabilities should inform the professor and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Support Services located in the Campus Center 137 (ph# 518-442-5490).

Assignment Sheet

Week 1-August 30-Sept 1, 2011

Introduction to Course. Definition of basic terms. Historical Introduction. What is Modernity? Where does Modernity begin? Iberian Heritage. Conquest of Region by Spain and Portugal.

Read: Powell Ch 1, Skidmore 1

Week 2-Sept 6-8

Relationship between the Spanish/Portuguese and Americans. The Administration of America by Spain and Portugal.

Read: Powell Chs 2-5, Skidmore 2, 3

Week 3- Sept 13-15

Ibero-America in the 17th and 18th centuries. Independence and its subsequent problems.

Development of political institutions in post-independence Latin America.

Read: Powell Chs 6-9,

Week 4- Sept 20 & 22

Read: Skidmore, 4, 5

Week 5- Sept 27 (Sept 29-no class)

Read: Skidmore, 4, 5, **Video**

Week 6-Oct 4-6

Read: Skidmore, 6, 7,

Week 7-Oct 11-13. **Exam I** October 11,2011

Read: Skidmore , 8,9,

Week 8-Oct 18-20

Read: Skidmore, 8, 9, 10, 11 **Video**

Scartascini Ch 1- 4

Sikkink: Pariah State

Week 9-Oct 25-27

Read: Scartascini Ch 5, 6, 7

Week 10-Nov 1-3

Read: Scartascini 8-10, Skidmore, 12

Week 11-Nov 8-10

Read: following articles

Rivarola: Gunnar and Myrdal

Gallagher: Concept of Development

De La Reza: Divide between Old and New Regionalism

Week 12-Nov 15-17. Term papers due. (Nov 15) Orals begin (Nov 15)

Week 13-Nov 22- **Classes cancelled Nov 23**

Week 14-Nov 29-Dec 1

Read: Nov 29, Skidmore, 13, 14

Dec 1. Lecture: The U.S. and Latin America

Week 15-Dec 6 **Last Day of Class.** Review of final.

Week 16-Dec 13 **Final Exam**