

The Politics of Latin America and the Caribbean

Political Science 349 - Section 01

Spring 2009

M, W, 2:45-4:00pm, Weinstein 303

Professor: Dr. Jenny Pribble

Office Hours: Mondays & Fridays 12:30-2 or by appointment

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Overview and Course Objectives:

This course provides an overview of Latin American politics in the 20th century through the contemporary period. More specifically, the class will focus on three periods in Latin American political development: the onset of industrialization and populist politics in the 1930s and '40s, the decay of democratic regimes and the authoritarian regimes of the 1960s and '70s, and the most recent period, which is characterized by democratization and economic liberalization. Students in the course will explore major themes in Latin American political development and by the end of the semester will be able to explain concepts such as populism, corporatism, authoritarianism, revolution, democratization, and neo-liberalism. Moreover, students will be able to identify the contemporary challenges that Latin American governments and citizens face and offer competing explanations for how states have arrived at this point.

While some political-economic trends are similar across Latin America, the region's states also vary significantly with regard to their histories of colonization, ethnic composition, level of economic development and human welfare, and system of government. In this course, students will gain an overview of both broad trends and cross-country diversity through the study of select cases: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Venezuela.

Course Organization:

The course will meet twice a week for one hour and fifteen minutes. Class meetings will mix interactive lecture and discussion of the assigned readings. The course will involve a good deal of discussion, which requires you to come prepared to analyze the readings. To assist with this, students will sign up for two class meetings and write a reaction paper (for more information about this see the section on evaluation and course requirements).

Required Texts:

Domínguez, Jorge I. and Michael Shifter (eds.). 2008. *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America*, 3rd Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Valenzuela, Arturo. 1978. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes, Chile*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Kingstone, Peter (ed.). 2006. *Readings in Latin American Politics*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

You should complete the assigned readings before each class session. I will provide reading questions on blackboard to help guide your preparation. Coming to class prepared is important so that you can participate actively in discussions and engage in the interactive lecture period. I reserve the right to give unannounced reading quizzes if I sense that students are not completing the assignments. Grades on such a quiz would count toward your participation.

Evaluation and Course Requirements:

1.) Class attendance and participation (15%)

It is essential that you come to class prepared. This means that you are expected to complete and reflect upon the required reading before each class session so that you can actively engage in discussion and ask questions.

We will be dealing with interesting and controversial issues in class, and I hope that we will have lively and fun debates. This is the essence of a political science class. It is important that you respect one another and the instructor. Remember that differences of opinion can provide an opportunity for intellectual growth.

Be on time and attend all classes. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class and if you are more than 10 minutes late, you will be counted as absent. After 3 absences, every additional absence will result in a 5 point reduction to your participation grade.

2.) Two Reaction Papers (10% [5% each])

The class will be divided into five or six research groups. For each day that a reaction paper is due, one person from each group will be responsible for submitting a paper. By the end of the semester, each student is responsible for writing two papers. The essay should briefly summarize the main points in the assigned readings, assess the evidence supporting those points, and identify one or more general questions for discussion. Examples of such questions include an inquiry into an unresolved puzzle, exploring the consequences of the main argument, and/or raising an issue that was omitted by the readings. Reaction papers will be an important source of discussion for the seminar. Reaction papers should be 2-3 double spaced, typed pages and should be emailed to me by 5pm the day before the class.

3.) Research Paper (25%)

You will write an in-depth analytic research paper about a subject of your choice. Papers will be written in academic style and should be 15-20 pages in length (double-spaced 12 point font). Papers *cannot* be submitted via email and must be turned in at the beginning of class on April 15. A late paper will result in a letter-grade reduction per day late. You should begin working on your research paper early in the semester and meet with me regularly about the topic and your progress. On February 11 you will submit your

research topic and on March 18 you will submit a detailed outline and an annotated bibliography.

4.) Mid-term Exam (25%)

An in-class mid-term exam will be given on March 4. The exam will mix short answer and long essay questions. You are responsible for mastering all course materials, including aspects of the reading that may not have been discussed during class.

5.) Final Exam (25%)

A take-home final exam will be posted on blackboard on Friday, April 22 and is due by 5pm on Monday April 27. The exam will be essay-based and will cover the *entire semester*. You are responsible for mastering all course materials, including aspects of the reading that may not have been discussed during class.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59

Late Work: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the specified date. Late assignments will result in a letter grade reduction per day late.

Make-Up Work: There will be no make-ups for either exam unless there are documented extraordinary circumstances that prevented you from taking the exam. Additionally, there will be no extra credit assignments.

Honor Code: All work must adhere to the University's Student Honor Code and pledge. For details of the code, see: <http://www.richmond.edu/about/honorcode.html>. Please write and sign the pledge on all assignments and tests.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism, very briefly, refers to stealing other peoples' written work (from books, articles, newspapers, web sources, etc.) or verbal ideas. You must cite all material that is not your own. If you have doubts of what constitutes plagiarism, consult the student honor code, and/or talk to me. Finally, all in-class exams are to be taken without the assistance of books, notes, or other people.

Classroom Etiquette: I want to create a nice learning environment for you and your peers. To do this, I ask that you respect a few basic ground rules:

- I will start class on time and expect you to arrive to class on time. I make important announcements at the beginning of class as well as take attendance. In addition, people coming in late could disrupt the professor and their fellow students.

- Many students prefer to take notes with their laptops. This is fine; however, I expect you to refrain from activities unrelated to the class (eg. emailing, instant messaging, surfing the internet). I reserve the right to ask you not to use your computer if I suspect you are engaging in these activities.
- Please remember to turn off your cell phone.

Getting Help: If you are having difficulties with the class and reading materials, please come and see me during my office hours. I also encourage you to use the resources of the Writing Center (<http://writing.richmond.edu/>), Speech Center (<http://speech.richmond.edu/>), and the Academic Skills Center (<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/student/affairs/office/asc/>).

Class Schedule and Assignments:

Week 1: Introduction and the Politics of Development

January 12: Introduction & Syllabus + Film: *Cocalero*

January 14: The Politics of Development

Online Reserves:

Lipset, Seymour Martin. "Economic Development and Democracy," in *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*, Patrick O'Neil and Ronald Rogowski (eds.), pg. 316-329.

Gunder Frank, Andre. "The Development of Latin America," in *Promise of Development*, Peter F. Klarén and Thomas J. Bossert (eds.), pg.111-123.

Wynia, Gary W. *The Politics of Latin American Development*, pg. 23-100.

To turn in: review the syllabus at home and write a 1-2 page reflection, identifying what you believe will be the most challenging aspect of the course for you and how you will prepare for that challenge.

Week 2: The Politics of Development

January 19: The Break-down of ISI and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism

** NOTE: due to the Martin Luther King holiday our class meets from 3:45-4:25pm

Online Reserves:

Skidmore, Thomas & Peter Smith. "Chapter 2," in *Modern Latin America*, Pgs. 42-58

Conniff, Michael L. "Introduction," in *Populism in Latin America*, Michael Conniff (ed.), pg. 1-21

Collier, David. "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model," in *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*, pg. 19-32.

January 21: Film: *Life & Debt*

Week 3: The Politics of Development & Democratization

January 26: The Debt Crisis and Neoliberal Reform

Readings:

Chapter 3 (Pg. 61-110)

Online Reserves:

Skidmore, Thomas & Peter Smith. "Chapter 2," in *Modern Latin America*, Pgs. 58-62.

Blackboard:

Huber, Evelyne & Fred Solt. 2004. "Successes and Failures of Neoliberalism," *Latin American Research Review*. 39 (3): 150-163.

January 28: Democratic Transitions and Consolidation

Online Reserves:

Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. "Latin American Democratization since 1978," in *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America*, Frances Hagopian and Scott P. Mainwaring (eds.). pgs. 14-59.

Blackboard:

Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Reuschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. "The Paradoxes of Contemporary Democracy," *Comparative Politics*, 29 (3): 323-342.

Reaction Paper #1

Week 4: Argentina

February 2: Argentina

Online Reserves:

O'Donnell, Guillermo. "Permanent Crisis and the Failure to Create a Democratic Regime: Argentina, 1955-1966," in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes in Latin America*, Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan (eds.), pgs. 138-177

Nunca Más (Introduction & 1-24)

February 4: Film: *Garden of the Forking Paths*

Week 5: Argentina & Brazil

February 9: Argentina

Readings:

Parts of Chapter 6, (Pgs. 209-238)

CDG:

Levitsky, Steven. (Pgs. 99-123).

Online Reserves:

Auyero, Javier. "Introduction" in *Poor People's Politics*, pgs. 1-28.

Reaction Paper #2

February 11: Brazil

Online Reserves:

Frieden, Jeffrey A. "Debt, Economic Policy, and Politics in Brazil," in *Debt, Development, & Democracy*. (Pgs. 95-142).

To turn in: Description of Research Paper Topic – Please meet with me before this date.

Week 6: Brazil & Chile

February 16: Brazil

Readings:

Chapter 7, (Pgs. 257-322)

CDG:

Samuels, David. (Pgs. 152-176).

Reaction Paper #3

February 18: Chile:

Book:

Valenzuela, Arturo. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes, Chile*. Read the entire book.

Week 7: Chile

February 23: Chile: The Pinochet Regime

Online Reserves:

Constable, Pamela and Arturo Valenzuela. *A Nation of Enemies*. Pgs. 90-139; 166-198

Kornbluth, Peter. "Consolidating Dictatorship: The United States and the Pinochet Regime," *The Pinochet File*. (Pgs. 201-233).

Reaction Paper #4

February 25: Film: *The Judge and the General*

Week 8: Chile & Exam

March 2: Chile

Online Reserves:

Constable, Pamela and Arturo Valenzuela. *A Nation of Enemies*. Pgs. 296-320

CDG:

Siavelis, Peter. (Pgs. 177-208)

Blackboard:

Karl, Terry Lynn. 1990. "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America," *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 23, N. 1: 1-21.

March 4: **Exam**

Week 9: Mexico

March 16: Mexico

Online Reserves:

Hamilton, Nora. 2006. "Mexico," in Harry E. Vanden & Gary Prevost (eds.) *Politics of Latin America*. (Pgs. 297-335).

Guillermoprieto, Alma. 1994. "Mexico City 1990," *The Heart that Bleeds*. (Pgs. 47-67).

Reaction Paper #6

March 18: Mexico

Readings:

Chapter 11, (Pgs. 489-544)

CDG:

Dresser, Denise. (Pgs. 242-263).

To turn in: Outline of paper and annotated bibliography.

Week 10: Cuba

March 23: Cuba

Online Reserves:

Eckstein, Susan Eva. "Chapters 1 & 2," in *Back From the Future*, pgs. 1-59.

March 25: Cuba

Online Reserves:

Eckstein, Susan Eva. "Chapters 4," in *Back From the Future*, pgs. 88-127;

Blackboard:

NYTimes Article Dec. 2008

Reaction Paper #7

Week 11: U.S. Latin American Relations

March 30: U.S. Involvement

Online Reserves:

Schoultz, Lars. "Latin America and the United States," in *Latin America After Neoliberalism*. (Pgs. 49-71).

Readings:

Perez, Lou. (Pgs. 464-486)

Tickner, Arlene (Pgs. 421-432)

Reaction Paper #8

April 1: Film: *The Cold War*

Online Reserves:

Skidmore, Thomas and Peter Smith. 2005. "Chapter 11," *Modern Latin America*. (Pgs. 389-395).

Montejo, Victor. 1987. *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village*. (Pgs. TBA).

Week 12: Central America & Revolutions

April 6: Nicaragua

Online Reserves:

Skidmore, Thomas and Peter Smith. 2005. "Chapter 11," *Modern Latin America*. (Pgs. 356-367; 373-380).

Guillermoprieto, Alma. 1994. "Managua 1990," *The Heart that Bleeds*. (Pgs.

23-46).

Reaction Paper #9

April 8: El Salvador

Online Reserves:

Skidmore, Thomas and Peter Smith. 2005. "Chapter 11," *Modern Latin America*. (Pgs. 382-289).

Watch film on reserve at the MRC: *Enemies of War*

Week 13: The "Left Turn" & Venezuela

April 13: The Left Turn

Blackboard:

Weyland, Kurt. 2009. "The Rise of Latin America's Two Lefts Insights from Rentier State Theory," *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 41 (2).

CDG:

Corrales, Javier. (Pgs. 39-71)

Reaction Paper #10

April 15: Venezuela

Film: *The Hugo Chavez Show (Frontline)*

****PAPER DUE TODAY****

Week 14: The "Left Turn" & Wrap-up

April 20: Venezuela

CDG:

Myers, David. (Pgs. 285-320)

Online Reserves:

Foer, Franklin. "The Talented Mr. Chávez," *The Atlantic*. (Pgs. 1-12).

Reaction Paper #11 (If Needed)

April 22: Bolivia & Wrap-up

CDG:

Gamarra, Eduardo. (Pgs. 124-151)

Readings:

Yashar, Deborah. (Pgs. 155-173)

FINAL EXAM: Distributed on blackboard on Friday, April 24. Due by 5pm on Monday, April 27.