POLS 446/ 546
Latin American Politics
Fall 2024

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Course schedule:
Wednesday 13:40-14:30, FASS 1099
Thursday 14:40-15:30, FASS 1075

Office Hours:
Wednesday 11:00-12:00

Teaching Assistant:
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Course Description and Objectives:
The goal of this class is to give you an overview of the contemporary political questions and challenges that are faced by Latin American countries. In order to have a better understanding of these issues, we start the class with a brief discussion of Latin American history and some important theoretical approaches that dominated the study of Latin American politics. The breakdowns of democracy and transitions to democratic rule have been among the leading issues, so we devote a section on these topics where both theoretical questions and examples from countries will be discussed. The following section looks in more detail at workings of democratic governments in Latin America. We will focus on political institutions such as the presidential system and political parties, populism, and some political economy issues such as economic reforms. The course will end with a discussion of "the left" and "new economic models" in Latin America.

Student Responsibilities:
(1) Required Reading and Participation.
You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. You are also required to attend and participate in class discussions. The part of your grade based on class participation will be determined by (1) attendance, (2) three random and unannounced quizzes based on the assigned readings and (3) participation.

(2) Exams.
There will be one mid-term exam and a final (Research paper for graduate students).
The date of the mid-term: **Nov. 6**
The date of the final: To be announced

(3) Film Report
You need to write a short report on one of the films below.
Chile'76, Cama adentro (Live-in Maid), Roma, No, Missing (by Costa-Gavras), Argentina 1985, Even the Rain, Our Brand is Crisis (by Boynton), La historia oficial (The Official Story), O Ano em Que Meus Pais Saíram de Férias (The year when my parents went on vacation)

The report will be written in class on December 26.

(4) Group Presentation
The group needs to present a descriptive summary of their research on a topic that we will not cover in this course.
Some topic examples include social movements, gender politics, politics of crime/ drugs, constitution writing process, foreign intervention in Latin America, internal/ civil conflict.

(5) Paper (optional for undergraduate students)
(Undergraduate students may choose to write a research paper instead of the final exam.)

In this paper, you need to pick a question that is related to the contemporary politics of Latin America and conduct research that goes beyond the assigned readings. Examples include, but are not limited to, the role of courts in democratic consolidation, the representation of women in politics, the role of human rights movements in democratization, the mobilization of citizens in social movements. You are highly encouraged to talk with me about your topic/question early in the semester. The paper is due on the date of the final exam.

Your course grade will be based on the mid-term exam (30%), the final exam or paper (45%), class participation (10%), film report (5%), and presentation (10%).

Grading Scale:

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

Course Calendar and Required Readings:

Sep 25	Introduction Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. *Modern Latin America*. Fifth Edition. ` New York: Oxford University Press, 2001 Pages 1-26
Section I	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEPENDENCY THEORY
Sep 26	Colonial heritage: Halperin-Donghi, Tulio. *Contemporary History of Latin America*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1993 Pages 1-20
Oct 2	Halperin-Donghi, pages 21-41
Oct 3	Independence: Skidmore and Smith, Pages 26-58
Oct 9	Dependency Theory: Cardoso, Fernando and Enzo Faletto, Dependency and Development in Latin America (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979). Pages 1- 28

Oct 10	Cardoso and Faletto, Pages 127- 149
Section II	DEMOCRATIC BREAKDOWNS AND TRANSITIONS
Oct 16	Collier, David "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In David Collier, ed. *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (Princeton University Press, 1979), pp. 19-32.
Oct 17	Remmer, Karen L,"Neopatrimonialism: The Politics of Military Rule in Chile, 1973-1987" *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 21, No. 2. (Jan., 1989), pp. 149-170.
Oct 23	Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*. (Princeton University Press, 1995) Chapter 1
Oct 24	Collier, Ruth Berins. *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999) Chapter 4
Oct 30=31	Cohen, M.J., Smith, A.E., Moseley, M.W. and Layton, M.L. (2023), Winners' Consent? Citizen Commitment to Democracy When Illiberal Candidates Win Elections. *American Journal of Political Science*, 67: 261-276. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12690
Nov 6	**MID-TERM**
Section III	DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT
Nov 7	Presidential Systems: Cheibub, Jose Antonio. *Presidentialism, Parliamentarism and Democracy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006) Introduction and Chapter 6 Cox, Gary, and Scott Morgenstern. 2001. Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents. *Comparative Politics* 33 (2).
Nov 13	Political Parties and Electoral Choice: Kitschelt, Herbert, Kirk A. Hawkins, Juan Pablo Luna, Guillermo Rosas, Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2010. *Latin American Party Systems*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 6.
Nov 14	Populism Levitsky, Steven and James Loxton. "Populism and Competitive Authoritarianism in the Andes" *Democratization*, Vol. 20, Issue 2. Pp. 107-136, 2013
Nov 20	Economic Reforms: Murillo, Maria V. (2001) *Labor Unions, Partisan Coalitions and Market Reforms in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 3
Nov 21	Pastor Jr., Manuel and Carol Wise. "The Politics of Second-Generation Reform."

Journal of Democracy 10:3 (1999) pp. 34-48.

Section IV THE LEFT

Nov 27 Background:
Castañeda, Jorge G. *Utopia Unarmed The Latin American Left After the Cold War.* (Vintage Books, 1994) Chapter 3

Nov 28 Frank, Volker. "The Elusive Goal in Democratic Chile: Reforming the Pinochet Labor Legislation**"** *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 44, No. 1. (Spring, 2002), pp. 35-68.

Dec 4 Inzunza, Jorge, Jenny Assael, Rodrigo Cornejo & Jesus Redondo (2019) Public education and student movements: the Chilean rebellion under a neoliberal experiment, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 40:4, 490-506, DOI: 10.1080/01425692.2019.1590179

Dec 5 Hunter, Wendy "The Normalization of an Anomaly The Workers' Party In Brazil" *World Politics* 59 (April 2007), 440–75

Dec 11 Ellner, S. (2023). Left Government Strategies toward Business Groups and the Outcomes: The Mexican and Venezuelan Cases. Latin American Perspectives, 50(2), 130–150. https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582X231153875

Dieterich, Heinz "Evo Morales, Communitarian Socialism, and the Regional Power Block" Monthly Review July 1, 2006.

SECTION V NEW POLITICAL-ECONOMIC MODELS

Dec 12 Manzetti, L. (2016), Renationalization in Argentina, 2005–2013. *Latin American Politics and Society.*

Dec 18 Veltmeyer, Henry (2013). "The political economy of natural resource extraction: a new model or extractive imperialism?" *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Vol. 34. Issue 1.

Dec 19 Daniel Brinks and Sandra Botero, "Inequality and the Rule of Law: Ineffective Rights in Latin American Democracies" in Brinks, Leiras, and Mainwaring (eds) Reflections on Uneven Democracies: The Legacy of Guillermo O'Donnell (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015).

Dec 25 Presentations

Dec 26 Presentations/Review