

# POSC 162-Latin American Politics (Winter 2022)

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**Professor:** Miguel Carreras

**Lectures:** Lectures will be delivered via YuJa on iLearn

**Weekly online session:** Monday 8 am – 9 am (via zoom)

**Email:** [miguel.carreras@ucr.edu](mailto:miguel.carreras@ucr.edu)

**Office hours:** Monday 9 am – 11 am (via zoom) or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Fulya Felicity Türkmen ([fturk001@ucr.edu](mailto:fturk001@ucr.edu))

## *Course Description and Overall Aims*

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This course is designed as an introduction to Latin American politics. No background on the region is required. The first half of the class will introduce students to Latin American societies and to different historical political processes in the region. We will cover topics such as Spanish colonization and independences, classical populism, ISI development strategies, military regimes, and democratic transitions. In the second half of the class, we will discuss in more depth the functioning of political institutions and political developments in Latin America after the democratic transitions (1980s). We will focus on different challenges that threaten (or have threatened) the quality of democracy in the region. Topics will include neoliberal populism, the rise of the populist left, weak institutions, and the perils of presidentialism in Latin America. We will draw on scholarly research by historians, sociologists, and of course political scientists; as well as on extracts from films/documentaries.

## *Course Requirements*

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There will be two online take-home exams, held in week 5 and week 10. The first exam will count for 35% of your grade and the final exam also 35%. In the exams, you will have to answer two essay questions. The remaining portion of your grade will be based on your participation in section. That participation will be evaluated based on your attendance, contribution to the discussion (15%) and on quizzes or assignments to be determined by your TA (15%). You will receive a separate syllabus for the section and you should first address any concerns you may have regarding the section with the TA.

## *Grading*

Mid-term exam: 35%

Final exam: 35%

Attendance/participation in section: 15%

Quizzes: 15%

## *Grading Scale*

A+ 100 – 97 / A 96.9 – 93 / A- 92.9 – 90

B+ 89.9 – 87 / B 86.9 – 83 / B- 82.9 – 80

C+ 79.9 – 77 / C 76.9 – 73 / C- 72.9 – 70

D+ 69.9 – 67 / D 66.9 – 63 / D- 62.9 – 60

F / Below 60

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## **Game Plan for a Successful Course despite COVID-19**

We are witnessing an explosion of COVID-19 cases in California due to the Omicron variant. This situation of course creates some challenges for instruction and require a number of adjustments. The TA and myself will try our best to be responsive and accommodating, but we also ask you to be a little bit patient if there are some delays or issues that cannot be resolved immediately.

I have tried to organize the course in a way that facilitates student learning and success despite the difficult circumstances we find ourselves in. This section gives you all the information you need to do well in this online course.

### 1) Lectures

Some of you may not have reliable internet access at all times, so I have decided to pre-record the lectures and post them on iLearn (using YuJa). This way, you can watch the lectures on your computer, TV, or smartphone even if you have intermittent internet connection or you have other impediments related to the pandemic (e.g. childcare). I will upload two lectures every week (1 on Monday and 1 on Wednesday).

### 2) Answering student questions

One drawback of following the asynchronous approach to online teaching (i.e. posting pre-recorded lectures) is that students cannot ask questions while I am lecturing. In order to provide an opportunity for students to ask questions about the lectures and the readings, I will connect every Monday from 8 am to 9 am via Zoom. See details on how to connect to this weekly session on zoom below.

I will not lecture during the live session, but I might use the time to discuss some examples, show you a video illustrating a concept or political phenomenon, or engage in similar pedagogical activities.

I do not want to penalize those who cannot make it to these zoom sessions for logistical reasons, so I will not record attendance. However, these sessions will not be recorded so you are highly encouraged to attend these online discussions.

In addition to this weekly Zoom session with me, you will also have a weekly discussion section with your TA which will also provide plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions about the material if something is not clear.

Zoom link live session: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/98517718832?pwd=Tk5tWUxWK1B1Tk5YXF3eFNkYjgzUT09>

### 3) Office hours

The office hours will be held online via zoom. I will be connected on a zoom session every Monday from 9 to 11 am and I will be available to meet with students. There is a waiting room feature in Zoom so I will chat with students one by one (and of course other students will not be able to listen to these conversations). If there are many students waiting, I will set a 10-minutes limit per meeting so I can talk to as many students as possible.

Zoom link office hours: <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95678933497?pwd=cTYzMkI0OEhmNjRIN3B4SmpJUmfUT09>

If Monday 9-11 am does not work for you, please send me an email and we can try to schedule a meeting at a different time.

#### 4) Readings

In order to make your life easier during these already stressful times, there are no required textbooks for this course. We will be reading articles and book chapters from different sources every week. I will upload electronic or scanned copies of *all the readings* via iLearn under course materials. See below for more information on the readings.

#### 5) Online take-home exams

Another challenge of online courses is the administration of online exams. I have opted for a “low-tech” option. You will receive the exams by email on the day the exam is scheduled at noon and you will have four days to complete the exam. The exam will be open book, which means you can consult your lecture notes as well as the readings.

The format will be exactly the same for the midterm and for the final exam. You will have to answer two essay questions. The essay questions will not be about narrow details in the readings or lectures. They will be broad and will require a good understanding of the main concepts and historical periods covered in the course. Each answer should be around 4 pages (double spaced). I will give you more details on how to prepare for the exams when we approach the exam date.

#### 6) Accommodating students' needs in challenging times

While I hope that everyone will remain healthy and be able to focus on the content of the course, I know these are stressful times for many of you. We will try our best to accommodate any special needs you may have during the quarter. But, if something comes up that is affecting your ability to do well in the course, we ask you to please communicate with me or your TA via email in a timely fashion so we can try to help you.

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### **Attendance and Participation**

Being engaged and participating in course meetings and discussions is important even in these very unusual circumstances. Since the lectures are pre-recorded, you can watch them at a time that works for you. But it is essential that you watch the lectures, take notes, and write down questions in a timely manner. You are required to virtually attend the lectures and do the readings associated with that lecture during the week in which those lectures are scheduled and before the discussion sections in which those readings/lectures are discussed.

My lectures do not simply review the assigned readings. I will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and I will not cover every single point from the readings in the lectures that will be posted online). “Virtual” attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class.

The participation in the weekly session will not be recorded, but you are highly encouraged to attend and prepare questions in advance. Attending these sessions will allow you to clarify things that are not clear in the readings or in the lectures.

In addition to the lectures, students must participate in a weekly discussion section. Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of these discussion sections. Attendance in those discussion sections will be recorded. Your TA will provide more detailed information about the expectations regarding participation and assignments in the sections.

### **Tips for Success:**

- Take notes on the readings and during lecture.
- Keep up with the weekly reading assignments and attend the weekly online session and the discussion section ready to discuss the readings.
- Attend my online office hours. This is a two-hour window when I will be available to talk with you on a one-to-one basis. You should feel free to bring questions, discuss assignments, or just stop by (virtually) to talk about contemporary political issues (related to the course).

### **Students with Disabilities**

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact me or your TA as early as possible in the course about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially and with the resources provided by Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC).

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating in any form is a deeply serious offense. Students who attempt to cheat will be subject to disciplinary procedures. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with UCR's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures available here: <https://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policies-and-procedures>

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## How to Connect to Office Hours?

**Time:** Monday 9-11 AM

**Link:** <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95678933497?pwd=cTYzMkI0OEhmNjRlN3B4SmpJUmFiUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 956 7893 3497

**Password:** 898307

## How to Connect to Weekly Live Sessions?

**Time:** Monday 8-9 AM

**Link:** <https://ucr.zoom.us/j/98517718832?pwd=Tk5tWUxWK1B1Tk5YXF3eFNkYjgzUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 985 1771 8832

**Password:** 955008

## Course Schedule and Readings

- January 3**                      **Syllabus presentation**
- No readings.
- January 5**                      **General Introduction: Latin America, what is it and why to study it?**
- [Watch Lecture 1: Introduction to Latin America on YuJa]
- Wiarda, H. J. and H. F. Kline (2007). A Concise Introduction to Latin American Politics and Development (Second Edition). Boulder, Westview Press: pages 1-10.
- January 10**                      **Colonialism and Independence**
- [Watch Lecture 2: Colonialism and Independence on YuJa]
- Chasteen, J. C. (2011). Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America (Third Edition). New York, W. W. Norton & Company: chapters 2-3.
- January 12-January 19**      **Economic and Political Trajectories in Nineteenth-Century Latin America**
- No lecture uploaded or live session on January 17 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)**
- [Watch Lecture 3: Latin American Politics in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]
- Chasteen, J. C. (2011). Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America (Third Edition). New York, W. W. Norton & Company: chapters 4-5.
- January 24-January 26**      **The Incorporation of the Masses: Classical Populism in Latin America**
- [Watch Lecture 4: Nationalism and Populism in Latin America (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]
- De la Torre, Carlos (2017). "Populism in Latin America." in The Oxford Handbook of Populism. New York: Oxford University Press.
- James, Daniel (1988). Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentina Working Class. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: pages 7-40.
- January 31-February 2**      **Failure of Democratic Incorporation, Democratic Breakdowns, and Authoritarianism**
- [Watch Lecture 5: Authoritarianism in Latin America (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]
- Brennan, James P. (2018). Argentina's Missing Bones: Revisiting the History of the Dirty War. Berkeley: University of California Press (chapters 1 & 2).
- Collier, David (1979). "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In Collier, ed. The New Authoritarianism in Latin America. Princeton University Press, 1979, pp. 19-32.
- February 3**                      **Take-home Midterm Exam – Distributed at 9 am - Due February 6 at 10 pm**

**Feb 7-Feb 9**

**Democratic Transitions and Democratization**

[Watch Lecture 6: Democratic Transitions and Democratization (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]

Munck, G. (2012). The Origins and Durability of Democracy. Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics. P. Kingstone and D. J. Yashar. London, Routledge: 3-20.

Mainwaring, Scott (1989). Transitions to Democracy and Democratic Consolidation: Theoretical and Comparative Issues. Kellogg Institute Working Paper #130, University of Notre Dame.

**Feb 14-Feb 16**

**Economic Crisis: The Debt Crisis, the Rise of Neoliberalism, and Neo-Populism**

[Watch Lecture 7: Neoliberalism (part 1 & part 2 on YuJa)]

Kingstone, P. (2011). The Political Economy of Latin America. New York, Routledge: chapter 3.

Weyland, Kurt (1996). "Neopopulism and Neoliberalism in Latin America: Unexpected Affinities." Studies In Comparative International Development 31(3): 3-31.

**Feb 23-Feb 28**

**The Rise of the Left (2000s) and the Return of the Right (2010s)**

**No lecture uploaded or live session on February 21 (Presidents' Day)**

[Watch Lecture 8: The Rise of the Left (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]

Kingstone, P. (2011). The Political Economy of Latin America. New York, Routledge: chapter 4.

Ernesto Londoño and Shasta Darlington (2018). "Jair Bolsonaro Wins Brazil's Presidency, in a Shift to the Far Right." The New York Times.

Chris Carlson (2018), The crisis in Venezuela and its lessons for the left." Open Democracy

**March 2**

**Introduction to Political institutions**

[Watch Lecture 9: Political Institutions on YuJa]

March, James and Johan P. Olsen (2008). "Elaborating the "New Institutionalism"". The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions. New York: Oxford University Press.

**March 7-March 9**

**Presidentialism and its Problems in Latin America**

[Watch Lecture 10: Presidentialism in Latin America (part 1 & part 2) on YuJa]

Linz, J. J. (1990). "The Perils of Presidentialism." Journal of Democracy 1(1): 51-69.

**March 11**

**Take-home Final Exam – Distributed at 9 am - Due on March 15 at 10 pm**