

POSC 162: Latin American Politics

Professor: Miguel Carreras

Course meets: Monday & Wednesday: 4:10 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Sproul Hall (SPR 2365)

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Office hours: Thursday 9 am – 11 am (Office: Watkins 2232)

Course Description and Overall Aims

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 left, clientelism and corruption, informal institutions, and the collapse of parties and party systems. We will draw on scholarly research by historians, sociologists, and of course political scientists; as well as on extracts from films/documentaries.

Course Requirements

This course meets twice a week (9 sessions). Grading is based on two exams, one map quiz, and attendance and participation in class discussions. All students are expected to have done the required readings before each session, and come to class with a willingness to critically reflect on the readings as well as on the lecture. For this reason, students will be graded on their class participation. The participation grade will be based on the frequency and the quality of the class interventions of the students. The two exams will consist of essay questions and short answer identifications.

Grading

Map quiz: 10%

Mid-term exam: 30%

Final exam: 40%

Attendance *and* participation: 20%

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

Readings

There are no books required for purchase as we will be reading articles and chapters from many different books, although you might consider making some of the titles part of your personal library. While the lectures are extremely important, it will be difficult to gain an adequate understanding or to do well on the exams without paying attention to the readings. *All the readings are available on iLearn.*

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every lecture. I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not.

Students with Disabilities

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact me as early as possible in the course about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially and with the resources provided by Student Special Services.

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 and are *required to read the Academic Integrity Guidelines posted on iLearn*. More information on what constitutes cheating and other forms of academic misconduct is available at: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnpolicies/academicintegrity.html>

Phones, Laptops, and Other Electronic Devices

Silence or shut off your phone and stow it away before class begins. Absolutely no texting during class will be tolerated. Laptops and other devices are to be used for note-taking only; internet browsing and other distracting activities during class time are unacceptable. Failure to abide by these rules will result, at minimum, in a significant reduction of the participation grade.

Course Schedule and Readings

June 20

General Introduction: Latin America, what is it and why to study it?

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.

June 22

1) Colonialism and Independence

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.

2) Economic and Political Trajectories in Nineteenth-Century Latin America

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.

June 27

MAP QUIZZ (10 minutes)

1) The Incorporation of the Masses: Classical Populism in Latin America

James, Daniel (1988). Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentina Working Class. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: pages 7-40.

2) Failure of Democratic Incorporation, Democratic Breakdowns, and Authoritarianism

Linz, J. and A. Stepan, Ed. (1978). The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press: chapter 5.

June 29

1) Democratic Transitions and Democratization

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.

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

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

July 4

Independence Day (No Class)

July 6

1) MIDTERM EXAM (90 minutes)

2) The Rise of the Left as a Response to Neo-Liberalism

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

July 11

1) Political Institutions 1: Presidentialism and its Problems in Latin America

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

2) Political Institutions 2: Executive-Legislative Relations

Cox, G. W. and S. Morgenstern (2001). "Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents." Comparative Politics **33**(2): 171-189.

July 13

3) Political Institutions 3: Parties and Party Systems in Latin America

Mainwaring, S. P. (2006). "The Crisis of Representation in the Andes." Journal of Democracy **17**(3): 13-27.

4) Political Institutions 4: Federalism, Decentralization, and Subnational Politics

Gibson, E. L., Ed. (2004). Federalism and Democracy in Latin America. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press: pages 1-28.

July 18

1) Political Behavior in Latin America: Social Movements, Voting Behavior and Political Participation

Sinek, W. (2010) "Strategies and Trends in Latin American Activism." Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise: A Multidisciplinary Introduction. Boulder: Westview Press: 138-156.

2) Corruption, Clientelism, and Weak Rule of Law in Latin America

Weyland, K. (1998). "The Politics of Corruption in Latin America." Journal of Democracy **9**(2): 108-121.

Brinks, D. M. (2012). "A Tale of Two Cities": The Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Latin America. Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics. P. Kingstone and D. J. Yashar. London, Routledge: 61-75.

July 20

IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM