

Florida State University
Department of Political Science
CPO 3303 Section 2
Latin American Politics
Summer 2006

Instructor: Joseph K. Young Room: 4 Bellamy Time: M-F 9:30 – 10:45 Office: 644-3406	Website: http://garnet.acns.fsu.edu/~jky04 Email: jkyoung@fsu.edu Office Hours: 10:45-11:45, T-TH Office: 550 Bellamy
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Latin America has recently undergone transformations in both its political and economic systems. Democratization and neoliberal economic reform have spread throughout the region. Along with these drastic changes, crime has increased, violence has spread, and social actors have increasingly organized outside the formal political system. Although the following statement could be made at nearly anytime in Latin American History: Latin America is at a crossroads.

The major themes that we will discuss over the course of the summer semester include: Democratization, Economic Growth/Reform, Crime and Violence, and US-Latin American Relations. We will focus on Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Chile, but many of our discussions and readings will apply across the region.

In this course, I hope to provide students the necessary background in Latin America political history. Beyond simply learning about the region's past, I expect students to develop an understanding of the recent trends and how they fit with contemporary political science theories to accurately assess the current political events and how they affect the region's future prospects.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to develop the necessary knowledge and critical thinking skills to assess contemporary Latin America. In general, the course serves as an introduction for those who are unfamiliar with the history, politics, and social structure of the region. Advanced knowledge of the region or particular countries is helpful but not necessary. In this course, however, we will go beyond a simple introduction to Latin American political history. This course will challenge students to analyze complex problems in Latin American politics through an examination of current scholarly debates on the region. Students are expected to read and critically evaluate all course materials, listen to lectures, and participate in discussions.

READING MATERIAL

Required Books

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, eds. 2005. *Modern Latin America*. 6th Edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (Referred to as SS in the syllabus)

Kingstone, Peter. 2006. *Readings in Latin America: Challenges to Democratization*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. (Referred to as PK in the syllabus)

Articles

I will place readings on reserve and on blackboard (BB), and these are noted in the syllabus. Some of the readings are also available on the Internet or on JSTOR (www.jstor.org). I also expect you to read a newspaper everyday. You can choose any paper you would like, but I would recommend the New York Times (www.nytimes.com) or Christian Science Monitor (<http://www.csmonitor.com>) as they generally have the best coverage of international events. You may anticipate test questions regarding current political developments in Latin America.

Some sources for course readings as well as journals that cover Latin America include:

Journal of Latin American Studies
Latin American Research Review
NACLA Report on the Americas
Current History
Latin American Politics & Society

Foreign Affairs
Comparative Politics
Journal of Democracy
Third World Quarterly

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. *Attendance and Participation (10%)*—attendance and participation are required. I may call on you randomly so you need to be prepared each day. We will meet a total of 30 times during the summer, and each day you will receive a point for showing up and one for participating. You must provide documentation within 48 hours of an absence for it to be excused.
2. *Tests and Final (70%)*—every two weeks we will have a test over the previous material. The 3 tests (worth 20%, 25%, and 25% respectively) will be a mixture of multiple choice and short answer. There will be two tests and a final. The final will be cumulative.
3. *Reading Response Papers (20%)*—You are required to turn in 2 reading response papers per week for a total of 12 for the summer. Each paper should be broken into 4 sections. First, summarize the readings for the week. Second, analyze the strengths of the argument presented by the author(s). Third, analyze the weaknesses of the argument presented by the author(s). Fourth, discuss how this reading relates to the course and to other themes related to the politics of Latin America. You will be assessed based on whether or not you address these four sections, the quality of your writing, and your ability to stay within these boundaries (1-2 pages, 12 point Times New Roman Font, 1 inch margins). I will not accept these papers late as the papers are most useful as a tool for class discussion. (If you are absent on the date a paper is due, bring the paper the day that you return. This is assuming that the absence is excused. If unexcused, you may not turn in the paper late.)

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 60 or below
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Make Up Exams and Quizzes

Unexcused absences from exams or quizzes will result in a 0 for the assignment. To qualify for a make-up test or quiz a student must:

- a) notify me of the absence in advance (e-mail or call me)
- b) provide documentation

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code. <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

E-MAIL:

I expect that you will check your e-mail regularly (daily) as you are responsible for the material that I send electronically.

CLASSROOM COURTESY

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly.

Scholarly Comments

- a) are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- b) are related to class and/or the course material
- c) focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- d) are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable Comments are:

- a) Personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs
- b) Interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized
- c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- e) Ignoring the instructor's authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

Course Schedule

- Week #1 What is Latin America? An Introduction to the Region and Politics.*
- May 9 Introduction to Latin America Politics/Review Syllabus/Discuss Class Policies
- May 10 **READ** Prologue (SS) and Chapter 1 (SS) (Paper #1 Due)
- May 11 **READ** Chapter 2 (SS) and Introduction (PK) (Paper #2 Due)
- May 12 **FILM:** *Romero*
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- Week #2 Challenges of Democratization*
- May 15 **READ** pgs 13-42 (PK)
-Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost. 2006. "Politics of Latin America: The Power Game." Chapter 8 (On Reserve).
- May 16 **READ** pgs 42-59 (PK)
-Carlos Vilas, (1997) "Inequality and the Dismantling of Citizenship in Latin America," *NACLA*, Vol. 31, No. 1, July/August. (JSTOR) (Paper #3 Due)
- May 17 **READ** Jorge G. Castañeda. 2006. "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June. (BB)
-Juan Forero. 2006. "Latin America's Populist Shift." *New York Times*, 20 April. (BB)
-Michael Conniff. 1999. *Populism in Latin America*. Chapter 1. (On Reserve). (Paper #4 Due)
- May 18 **Country Focus:** Argentina
READ Chapter 3 (SS)
-pgs 209-255 (PK)
- May 19 **Exam #1**

Week #3 *Economic Reform and Neoliberalism*

May 22 **READ** pgs 68-88 (PK)

May 23 **READ** pgs 89-110 (PK)
-Kurt Weyland. 1996. "Neopopulism and Neoliberalism in Latin America: Unexpected Affinities." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Fall, Vol 31, No.3. 3-31 (On Reserve). (Paper #5 Due)

May 24 **READ** Hernando De Soto "The Other Path" (On Reserve) (Paper #6 Due)

May 25 **Country Focus:** Chile
-pgs 323-345 (PK)
-Chapter 4 (SS)
-Kurt Weyland. 1997. "'Growth with Equity' in Chile's in New Democracy." *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 32, No. 1. (JSTOR)

May 26 **FILM:** *Las Madres—Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*

Week #4 *Crime and Violence*

May 29 NO CLASS—MEMORIAL DAY

May 30 **READ** Diane Davis. 2006. "The Age of Insecurity: Violence and Social Disorder in the New Latin America." *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 41, No. 1, February. (JSTOR)
- *Caroline Moser, Ailsa Winton and Annalise Moser.* 2006. "Violence, fear and insecurity and the urban poor in Latin America" *World Bank Publication*. Found Online at <http://wbIn0018.worldbank.org/LAC/lacinfoclient.nsf/Category/By+Category/4EE635A891EEDE3585256E8C005E468C?OpenDocument>
- MS-13 Gang:
 o <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MS-13>
 o http://usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-01-05-gang-grows_x.htm?POE=click-refer
(Paper #7 Due)

May 31 **FILM:** Bus 174

June 1 **Country Focus:** Colombia
READ pgs 383-433 (PK)
-Chapter 7 (SS)
-Winifred Tate. 2000. "Repeating Past Mistakes: Aiding Counterinsurgency \in Latin America." *NACLA*. Vol. 38, No. 2, September/October. (JSTOR)
- Stephen Johnson. 2001. "Helping Colombia Fix Its Plan to Curb Drug Trafficking, Violence, and Insurgency." *Heritage Foundation Publication*. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/BG1435.cfm>
(Paper #8 Due)

June 2 **Exam #2**

Week #5 *US –Latin American Relations*

June 5 **READ** Chapter 12 (SS)

June 6 **READ** Chapter 5 (PK) (Paper Due)

June 7 **COUNTRY FOCUS:** Nicaragua, **READ** Booth, Wade, and Walker
Understanding Central America, Chapters 1, 3, and 5 (BB). (Paper #9 Due)

June 8 **READ** "How the US Trained Latin America's Military: The Smoking Gun" (BB)
READ or Listen to:
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/military/julydec99/sotamericas_9-21.html
-<http://www.ciponline.org/facts/soa.htm> (Paper Due)
-Eric Farnsworth. 2006. "FTAA: Delayed, But Not Over." Found Online at:
<http://www.latinbusinesschronicle.com/reports/columns/1205/farnsworth.htm>
(Paper #10 Due)

June 9 **Movie**—*Hidden in Plain Sight*

Week #6 *Country Focus—Brazil and Cuba*

June 12 CUBA
READ 435-486 (PK), 296-327 (SS)
Phillip Brenner and Marguerite Jimenez. 2006. "US Policy on Cuba Beyond the Last Gasp" *NACLA*, January/February. (Paper #11 Due) (JSTOR)

June 13 BRAZIL
READ Chapter 5 (SS)
-pgs 257-276 (PK)

June 14 RACE RELATIONS in BRAZIL
READ Thomas Skidmore. 1993. "Bi-Racial USA and Multi-Racial Brazil: Is the Contrast Still Valid?" *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 2. (JSTOR)
- George Reid Andrews. 1996. "Brazilian Racial Democracy, 1900-90: An American Counterpoint." *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 31, No. 3. (Jul.), pp. 483-507. (Paper #12 Due) (JSTOR)

June 15 Review for Final

June 16 **Final Exam**