

Latin American Political Systems

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Political Science 3032

Summer B Term, July-August 2009

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Course Description

In this course we will review key events and concepts in modern Latin America. First, we will study the modern political history of Latin America, specifically focusing on social science explanations of the region's economic, political and social challenges. Second, we will examine the process of democratization and the connections between democracy and development in Latin America. We will then consider the rise of the "new left" and investigate innovations in governance in Latin America and the future for democratization and development in the region.

Required Reading

- There are two books available for purchase at the bookstore:
 - Vanden and Prevost, *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 3rd Edition (2009)
 - Levy and Bruhn, *Mexico: The Struggle for Democratic Development*, 2nd Edition (2006)
- Additionally, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul* by Michael Reid (2007) is available for purchase at the bookstore as recommended reading. Selected chapters required for the course will be provided electronically.
- The remaining readings are available online through the library e-reserves system
- You are also expected to keep up with current events by reading a quality news source for international news such as the *New York Times* or the *Economist* magazine.
- I reserve the right to add additional readings for discussion throughout the course. You will be notified of any new readings by email and in class.

Course Work and Grading

Participation	22.5%
Map Quiz	2.5%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Presentation	10%
Policy Brief	15%

Important Dates:

Map Quiz	July 8
Midterm Exam	July 24
Final Exam	August 7

****Note: Policy Briefs will be due in class on the day of your presentation.

Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your daily participation in class. Though there is not an official attendance policy, you cannot receive participation points if you are not in class. In order to receive an "A" for participation, you must attend class regularly, make thoughtful contributions to discussions, and arrive prepared to discuss the assigned material. In addition, roughly twice a week you will be asked to write an in-class summary of the previous night's reading. These will be graded with a check plus, check, or check minus depending on demonstrated comprehension of the reading.

Map Quiz

The Map Quiz will be worth 2.5% of your course grade. You will be required to know both country and major capital names.

Exams

There will be two exams in this class (one midterm and a final exam). Both exams will contain essay questions for which you will be expected to make reasoned arguments using material from the course for support.

Policy Brief

You will be asked to write a concise policy brief on one of the topics listed in the syllabus under "discussion and debate" (2,000 words max). I will provide a sign-up sheet and further information on the policy brief during the first week of class.

Presentation

Each student is required to present the main problem, policy options and primary recommendation from your policy brief. I will provide further details on my expectations for the presentations during the first week of class.

OTHER POLICIES

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. *Please note, however, that requests for special accommodations need to be presented in a timely manner: at least one week prior to scheduled exams/ assignments.* See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.html

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html> - student code

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council

(honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Presentations

Why Study Latin America?		
	In Class	Assignment Due
July 7	Course Introduction	
July 8	Panorama of Latin American Politics, Economics, and Society Discussion: Why Study Latin America?	V&P pp. 1-18 Reid, Chapter 1 (E-reserve)
What explains democracy and development in Latin America?		
July 9	1. Colonial Legacy	V&P pp. 18-52 (Historical Background-skim) V&P pp. 80-114, 180-189 (Read thoroughly) Map Quiz
July 10	2. Modernization 3. Dependency Theory	V&P pp. 149-167 Valenzuela and Valenzuela, "Modernization and Dependency in Latin America" (E-reserve)
July 13	4. U.S. Intervention during the Cold War Movie: Dateline 1973, Chile (25 min.)	V&P pp. 74-78 - Timeline Reid Chapters 4 and 5 (E-reserve)
July 14	Discussion and Debate #1: Dealing with the Past, Chile and Argentina	<i>The Economist</i> , "Slaking a Thirst for Justice" (E-reserve)
Transitions to Democracy		
July 15	Introduction to Mexico and Democratization	Huntington, "The Third Wave" (E-reserve) Levy & Bruhn, Chapter 1 "The Changing Course of Development"
July 16	The role of civil society and political parties	V&P pp. 239-267 Levy & Bruhn, Chapter 3 "The Rise of Political Competition" and Chapter 4 "Difficult Democracy"

Market Liberalization		
July 17	Neoliberalism	V&P pp. 167-179 Levy & Bruhn, Chapter 5 "The State and the Market" and Chapter 7 "Bilateral Issues" pp 246-256
Inter-Hemispheric Relations		
July 20	Economic Integration	Chapter 6 "Mexico in a U.S.-Led World"
July 21	Migration and the Drug Trade	Levy & Bruhn, finish Chapter 7 "Bilateral Issues"
July 22	Discussion and Debate #2: What to do about the drug trade in Latin America	Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy "Drugs and Democracy: Toward a Paradigm Shift." (5 page statement on E-reserve)
July 23	Midterm Review	Levy and Bruhn, Chapter 8 "The Struggle for Democratic Development"
July 24	MIDTERM	
The Left in Latin America		
July 27	Latin American Political Institutions and the "New" Left in Latin America	Cleary, "Explaining the Left's Resurgence" (E-reserve) V&P pp. 190-238
July 28	Movie The Hugo Chavez Show	Reid, Chapter 7 "The Populist Challenge" (E-Reserve)
July 29	Discussion and Debate #3: How should the US respond to Hugo Chavez?	McCoy, "Engaging Venezuela: 2009 and Beyond" (E-reserve)
Ongoing Challenges for Democratic Governance		
July 30	Introduction to Brazil Environmental Politics Lecture by Glenn Wright	Hunter "The Partido dos Trabalhadores: Still a Party of the Left?" (E-reserve)
July 31	Film on the Amazon and Chico Mendes	TBD
August 3	Discussion and Debate #4: What can Brazil do to preserve the environment?	<i>The Economist</i> "The Future of the Forest" (E-reserve)

August 4	Participatory Democracy and Urban Politics	Perlman "Redemocratization Viewed from Below: Urban Poverty and Politics in Rio de Janeiro, 1968-2005" (E-reserve)
August 5	Discussion and Debate #5: Increasing political inclusion in Brazilian Cities	TBD
August 6	Conclusions and Review	Reid, Chapter 12 "The Loneliness of Latin America" (E-reserve)
August 7	Final Exam	