

PSCI 3032: Democracy, Inequality and Violence in Latin America

Department of Political Science
The University of Colorado at Boulder
Spring 2020

[RAMY N1B23](#) MWF 11:00-11:50

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:45 am, or by appointment

Course description

This course is an introduction to the politics of Latin America. Since independence in the 19th century, Latin American countries experienced decades of authoritarian rule. In the last 40 years, there have been significant efforts towards democratic governance with a number of important successes. There remain, however, significant challenges to democratic consolidation throughout the region. Thus, this course centers on the following question: *What are the challenges to democracy in Latin America and how do they prevent democratic consolidation?* We will focus on a number of themes and apply these themes to specific countries and current events to understand democratic challenges in the region today.

Things to consider:

Latin America is a very dynamic region! And in that spirit, while you will learn about the region's political, economic, and social progression through time, you will also be exposed to emerging issues as they happen. There have been important political and economic trends emerging in the region in the last few years, and even in the last few months! Therefore, although you have a set list of readings for each week listed in the syllabus, I might add or change course material if new developments emerge that are germane to our class discussion of that week. **** With that said, use this syllabus as a roadmap to what we will cover in class. I will always let you know if there are changes in the readings and/or activities. ****

Course Objectives

- Depict the regional/national historical and social contexts in which politics occur
- Identify key political actors and institutions throughout the region
- Describe important political, economic, and social dynamics throughout the region
- Talk knowledgeably and critically about political outcomes and current events in the region
- Analyze and explain political outcomes using theories introduced in this course
- Explain the factors that prevent democratic consolidation in the region

Communication Policy

I will communicate with you through your Colorado email account and Canvas. Please be in a habit of checking these accounts on a daily basis. Students are responsible for any and all information sent via these mediums, including any changes made to the syllabus, schedule or assignments. Students should contact me via my email provided above and expect a response from me within 24 hours. Additionally, students may come to my scheduled office hours or reach out to me to make an appointment at a more convenient time

Required Texts

There is one required textbook. It is available at the CU Bookstore and most online stores of your choice.

Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. 2017. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. 6th edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

All other readings I will post to Canvas. On this syllabus, readings from Vanden and Prevost are abbreviated (VP). It is essential that students remain current with required readings. Students will also read current events as well as journal articles related to themes discussed in this class.

Assignments and Grading Criteria

Weekly Reading quizzes	20%
Attendance	15%
Group Projects	15%
Panel Presentation/Report	20%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%

TOTAL	100%

- Weekly Reading Quizzes 20 %

On Wednesday of each week starting on Wednesday January 15th, there will be a graded online reading quiz. I will open the online quiz in Canvas on Wednesday of each week, and it will be due the following Friday by 11:59 pm. The quiz will cover that week's reading and lecture material. Quizzes are intended to assess your comprehension of class material. The quizzes will be composed of multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. **Because you will have more than 48 hours to complete the quiz, there will be no makeup quizzes. This policy is strictly enforced.**

- Attendance 15%

15% of the overall grade will be based on attendance. Keep in mind that since the class has several group projects, and we will be covering a lot of material in each class, attendance is pivotal for good performance. Students receive four freebie days. Note that religious holidays, sickness, family emergencies, and other reasons for absence that are "legitimate" DO COUNT against your freebie absences. You are strongly advised to use your freebies for these purposes. Beyond four absences, the attendance grade will be lowered from 100 by ten percentage points per absence. Because all students receive an ample allotment of freebies for the term, please do not discuss, give excuses for, or argue about absences with the professor. Students with eight or more absences will either have to drop the class or receive an "F".

- Midterm 15% & Final Exam 15%

There will be two comprehensive exams that will cover all the material from the class, including readings, lectures, in-class activities and discussions, and current events. The exam will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions. There will also be short essay questions.

- Group Assignments 15%

Working in a group is a reality of the modern workforce, and this course will give students plenty of experience and practice on this front. Group work, however, poses challenges along with the rewards. Please keep in mind the following guidelines in your group work:(1) The biggest problem with group assignments is the free-rider problem. Don't be the slacker. As a partial incentive, your work and effort will be confidentially graded by your fellow group members at the end of the semester. Your average across these grades will count the equivalent of one group assignment. (2) Students will be randomly assigned to a group. (3) During group workdays, stay focused on course material and content (e.g., do not wander off into Facebook). I have yet to see a piece of written work that could not be improved upon, so the argument that your group is somehow "done" will not fly. (4) The instructor will roam around the classroom on group workdays. Get my attention to ask questions: that is what I'm there for (5) Be professional with your group members. Respect and actively listen to all members' input and opinions. Be mindful to not discriminate against others because of their gender, race, major, ethnicity, country-of-origin, etc.

- Panel Presentation and Report 20%

In your groups, you will be giving a panel presentation in the last two weeks of class. You will organize your panel around a relevant and current topic in a Latin American country. Your grade will be based on both a presentation and a written report offering background and analysis to the event.

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned as follows:

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

Due Dates

Midterm March 6th

Final Exam Sunday, May 3rd

Submission Policies

All writing assignments must be submitted to Canvas on the specified date in the syllabus. Assignments are due by 11:59 pm on that date. Submissions after these due dates are docked 10 percentage points per day.

Additionally, keep in mind that there are no makeup opportunities for the quizzes! **Remember THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES.**

Course Policies

Course Grading and Plagiarism Policy

- You must complete all course requirements laid out above to receive a non-failing grade in the course.
- Late assignments are penalized 10% per day that it is late (includes weekends).
- There are no extra credit assignments in the course beyond what I am already. Your course grade will be calculated based solely on the assessments/assignments described above.

As always, academic dishonesty is not tolerated; you will receive an “F” in the class and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (especially current or former students or published work) as your own, whether it be on a paper, a presentation, an exam, a quiz, or any other type of assignment. A common practice in this day and age that you must nonetheless avoid is “cut-and-paste plagiarism,” in which students directly copy and paste portions of an online source into their papers without quoting and citing it. If you copy four or more words from another author/person without putting the copied text in quotation marks AND immediately citing the source, you have committed plagiarism. Also note that you are not allowed to plagiarize yourself: In other words, your writing for this class must be original and cannot be from a paper you have written or are writing for another class, or previous semesters.

If I suspect plagiarism on an assignment or an assessment, I will turn the matter over to the CU Honors Council. Should you be found to have plagiarized, you will receive a zero on that assignment or assessment, in addition to whatever penalty that the Honors Council imposes.

MISCELLANEOUS GUIDELINES

If you miss class, you should copy the notes from a classmate; please do not ask your instructor what you missed. **In class, please turn off your cell phones. I strictly enforce this policy.** If you are using your phone during lecture, I will ask you to leave the class. Please do not read newspapers, bring your dog(s), or chat with your neighbor. Also, do not use your laptop for any reason other than taking notes. While I do not ban laptop usage in lecture, you should know that there are reams of research showing how detrimental laptop usage is for students’ learning outcomes and performance. Moreover, when you use your laptop for entertainment purposes in class,

you are not only distracting yourself but also others. **Finally, please wait until lecture is over to begin packing up your things.** Aside from this syllabus, all course handouts will be emailed to students and posted to Canvas. **You are accountable for letting me know if there is any reason you might have that could limit your participation in this course at the beginning of the semester. If I have knowledge of this beforehand, we could make some arrangements for you to still get credit. I am unable to make changes when it is too late in the course term.**

University of Colorado Policies

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, in this class, please inform the professor immediately if you have any religious holiday conflicts with the two scheduled exams that appear on this syllabus. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

Course Outline

Week 1 (January 13-17): Latin America Overview: Central Themes & Historical Context

Introduction to Latin America, overview of the syllabus and course

- VP Chapter 1
- **Quiz 1 -Friday Discussion**

Week 2 (January 20-24): Latin America Overview: Central Themes & Historical Context

- No class on Monday 20th -Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- VP Chapter 2
- Diamond, Larry. 1999. *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press. Pages 7-17 in Chapter 1, "Defining and Developing Democracy."
- **Quiz 2**

Week 3 (January 27-31) Dictatorships and Transition

- VP Chapter 3
- VP Chapter 15 (Chile), pages 415-419
- Mainwaring, Scott, Daniel Brinks, and Anibal Perez-Linan. 2001. "Classifying political regimes in Latin America, 1945-1999." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(1): 37-65.
- **Quiz 3 - Friday Discussion**

Week 4 (February 3-7) Political Culture in Latin America

- Diamond, Larry. 1999. "Consolidating Democracy." Chapter 3. In *Developing Democracy: Toward Consolidation*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Selected pages from Booth, John A. and Mitchell A. Seligson. 2009. *The Legitimacy Puzzle in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.
- VP Chapter 8
- **Quiz 4**
- **Group Activity 1**

Week 5 (February 10-14) Populism, The Left and Patronage

- "The Return of Populism." 2006. *The Economist*.
- Weyland, Kurt. 2013. "The Threat from the Populist Left." *Journal of Democracy* 24(3): 18-32.
- Castaneda, Jorge G. 2006. "Latin America's Left Turn." *Foreign Affairs* 85(3): 28-43.
- VP Chapter 17 (Venezuela)
- **Quiz 5 - Friday Discussion**

Week 6 (February 17-21): Social Movements and Protests

- VP Chapter 10
- VP Chapter 18 (Bolivia)
- Becker, Marc. 2014. "Rafael Correa and Social Movements in Ecuador."
- **Quiz 6**
- **Group Activity 2**

Week 7 (February 24-28): Economic Development

- VP chapter 7
- Dos Santos, Theotonio. 1970 "The Structure of Dependence." *The American Economic Review*: 231-236. on Canvas
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Introduction and Chapter 1
- Valenzuela, J. S., & Valenzuela, A. (1978). Modernization and dependency: Alternative perspectives in the study of Latin American underdevelopment. *Comparative politics*, 10(4), 535-557.
- **Quiz 7 - Friday Discussion**

Week 8 (March 2-6) Review and Midterm

- Midterm Friday March 6th

Week 9 (March 9-13) Economic Inequality

- Hoffman, Kelly and Miguel Angel Centeno. 2003. "The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America." *Annual Review of Sociology* 29. Read pages 363-373
- "Gini Back in the Bottle." October 2012. *The Economist*.
- Holzner, Claudio. 2010. Selected pages from *Poverty of Democracy*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Auyero, Javier. 2000. "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin America Research Review* 35 (3): 55-81.
- VP Chapter 14 (Brazil), Focus on pages 385-398
- **Quiz 8 - Friday Discussion**

Week 10 (March 16-20) The Informal Sector

- Portes, A., & Schauffler, R. (1993). Competing perspectives on the Latin American informal sector. *Population and development review*, 33-60.
- Hernando de Soto. Lecture: Why does the Informal Economy Matter? 1988
- Rosenbluth Guillermo (1994). The Informal Sector and Poverty in Latin America. CEPAL Review 52, United Nations
- **Quiz 9**
- **Group Activity 3**

Week 11 (March 23-27) Spring Break No Assignments

Week 12 (March 30 – April 3) Ethnic and Gender Inequality

- VP Chapter 5
- Friedman, Elisabeth Jay. 2009. "Gender, Sexuality and the Latin American Left: Testing the Transformation." *Third World Quarterly* 30(2): 415-433.
- Aljazeera. Mexicans march against femicide after teen's murder.
- VP chapter 4
- Hooker, Juliet. 2005. "Indigenous Inclusion/Black Exclusion: Race, Ethnicity and Multicultural Citizenship in Latin America." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 37(2): 285-310 in Canvas
- **Quiz 10**
- **Friday April 3rd –Panel Presentations**

Week 13(April 13-17): Corruption and State Capacity

- Cárdenas, M. (2010). State capacity in Latin America. *Economía*, 10(2), 1-45. **READ ONLY PAGES 1-17.** Focus on the theory and not the empirical analysis.
- Hendrix, C. S. (2010). Measuring state capacity: Theoretical and empirical implications for the study of civil conflict. *Journal of Peace Research*, 47(3), 273-285. **ONLY FIRST FOUR PAGES UP TO 276**
- Weyland, Kurt Gerhard. "The Politics of Corruption in Latin America." *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 9 no. 2, 1998, pp. 108-121. *Project MUSE*
- "Cleaning up Latin American Democracy" Mar. 2015 *The Economist* posted in Canvas
- United Nations Development Programme. 2014. "Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America."
- Shirk, David A. 2010. "Judicial Reform in Mexico." Transborder Institute, University of San Diego.
 - Read pages 4-23.
- VP Chapter 12 (Mexico), Focus on pages 323-331 and page 336.
- **Quiz 11**
- **Friday April 17th –Panel Presentations**

Week 14 (April 20-24): Narcos, Autodefensas, and Society

- United Nations Development Programme. 2014. "Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America."
- VP Chapter 12 (Mexico), Focus on pages 323-331 and page 336.

- Ahmed, Azam. Jan. 16, 2016. "How El Chapo Was Finally Captured, Again." *New York Times*.
- Trelles, Alejandro and Miguel Carreras. 2012. "Bullets and Votes: Violence and Electoral Participation in Mexico" *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 2: 89-123.
 - Read pages 89-103 and 114-116.
- VP Chapter 16 (Colombia), Focus on pages 445-458 NYT. Colombia and FARC peace deal.
- **Friday April 24th - Panel presentation**

Week 15 (April 27-May 1): Review Week and Final Exam

Monday 27th – Final Panel Presentations

Wednesday 29th –Review Session

Final exam: Sunday, May 3rd 7:30 – 10:00