

CPO 3303 - INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Spring 2009

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Office Hours: M 8:45-11:45 am, T 10:30-11:30 am, 1:00-2:00 pm, Th 10:30-11:30 am, 221
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Course Objectives

The purpose of the course is to give the student a clearer understanding and appreciation of Latin American politics. After a general introduction to the historical processes underlying contemporary Latin American politics and the current challenges facing the region, we will then focus in depth on a number of selected themes. In Part II we will explore the issue of economic modernization without democracy in the case of Mexico. Part III of the course will focus on Peru's troubled transition to democracy. And Part IV will focus on challenges of democracy in Brazil.

Examinations and Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings on time and to attend class. Your grade will consist of regularly scheduled quizzes (20%), three in-class exams (20% each) and a seven page research paper (20%). The paper will be due on Thursday, April 24 by 12 noon. Late papers will lose one full letter grade for each weekday they are late. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and not to leave until class is over. Entering class 10-15 minutes late is disruptive and disrespectful of the instructor and other students. Students have a responsibility to show respect for the opinions expressed by their classmates. I expect all students to adhere to the university's standards of academic honesty in their class work. In the event that a student is found cheating or knowingly plagiarizing, he/she will receive a grade penalty - automatic "E" in the course - and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Required Reading

The following required books can be purchased at Goerings, 1717 NW 1st Ave (372-3975):

- Daniel Levy and Kathleen Bruhn, Mexico: The Struggle for Democratic Development (2nd Edition, University of California Press, 2006).
- Alfred Montero, Brazilian Politics (Polity, 2005).
- Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost, Politics of Latin America: The Power Game (3rd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2008).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Part I: Introduction to Latin America

Week 1

January 6: Introduction and Course Overview

January 8: The Colonial Legacy

Vanden and Prevost (VP) Ch. 1-2.

Week 2

January 13: Independence, its Aftermath, and the Search for Development

VP, Ch. 3, 7

January 15:

Political Actors, Institutions, and Culture

VP, Ch. 9.

Week 3

January 20: Gender and Politics

VP, Ch. 5.

Film: In Womens' Hands

January 22: Race, Ethnicity, and Indigenous Peoples

VP, Ch. 4

Week 4

January 27: Religion and Politics

VP, Ch. 6.

Film: Miracles are Not Enough

January 29: Revolutionary Change and Social Movements

VP, Ch. 10.

Week 5

February 3: **Exam #1**

Part II - Development and Democracy in Mexico

February 5: Thinking about Development

Levy and Bruhn (LB), Ch.1.

Week 6

February 10: Stability without Democracy

LB, Ch. 2-3.

Paper Topic Due

February 12: Obstacles to Democratic Development

LB, Ch. 4

Week 7

February 17: Mexico's Economic Development Model

LB, Ch. 5-6.

Film: Continent on the Move

February 19: Issues in US-Mexican Relations

LB, Ch. 7.

Week 8

February 24: The 2000 Elections and Beyond

[Andreas Schedler - The Democratic Revelation - Journal of Democracy 11:4](#)

LB, Ch. 8.

Part III - Interrupted Democratic Development in Peru

February 26: Revolution by the General Staff

[Deborah Poole and Gerardo Rénique and, "A Nation for the Few."](#)

Week 9

March 3: Peru's Transition to Democracy

[Philip Mauceri, "The Transition to 'Democracy' and the Failures of Institution-Building."](#)

Film: Fire in the Mind

March 5: Peru's Shining Path

[Carlos Ivan Degregori, "Harvesting Storms."](#)

Week 10

March 17: The Rise and Fall of Alberto Fujimori

John Crabtree, "The Collapse of *Fujimorismo*: Authoritarianism and its Limits," [Bulletin of Latin American Research](#) 20:3 (2001). <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/118988210/PDFSTART>

[Ernesto Garcia Calderon - Peru's Decade of Living Dangerously - Journal of Democracy](#) 12:2 (2001)

Bibliography Due

March 19: Toledo and the Return of Alan García

Cynthia McClintock, "An Unlikely Comeback in Peru," [Journal of Democracy](#) 17:4 (2006) http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v017/17.4mcclintock.html

Week 11

March 24: **Exam #2**

Part IV - Dictatorship, Uneven Development, and Democracy in Brazil

March 26: Historical Patterns in Brazilian Politics

Montero, Ch. 1-2

Week 12

March 31: State-Formation and Challenges to Democratization

Montero, Ch. 3-4

April 2: Democracy without Equality

Montero, Ch. 5.

Week 13

April 7: Civil Society and Democratization?

Montero, Ch. 6

Film: Capital Sins

April 9: No class

Week 14

April 14: Brazil in the World

Montero, Ch, 7.

April 16: Lula and Beyond

Montero, Ch. 8.

Lourdes Sola, "Politics, Markets, and Society in Lula's Brazil," [Journal of Democracy](#) 19:2 (2008) http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v019/19.2sola.html

Week 15

April 21: **Exam #3**
Papers Due: April 24 by 12 noon