

CPO 6307 - LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Fall 2008

Philip Williams

Office Hrs: TTh 1-4 pm (221 Anderson)

Tel: 273-2369, Email: pjw@polisci.ufl.edu

Homepage: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/pjw/>

Course Overview

As a systematic examination of Latin American Politics, this course has several objectives: 1) to provide students with a basic foundation and understanding of some of the "core" themes in contemporary Latin American Politics; 2) to encourage students to evaluate the pertinent literature with a critical eye; and 3) to give students an appreciation of the future research problems and priorities in the field. The course focuses on regime change, democratization and social movements in Latin America. Given the course's seminar format, students will be expected to discuss in class themes developed in the assigned readings. In order for there to be a constructive discussion, students must come to class prepared, having read assigned books or articles with a critical eye.

Each student is expected to have completed the readings for the week, and to have something to say about those readings when seminar begins. As quality of class participation will weigh heavily in the final grade, attendance is mandatory. During the course of the semester, students are required to hand in five brief (approx. 2 page) reaction papers, drawing from the weekly assigned readings. Your reaction papers should address the question for that week. In addition, each week students are required to send me one or two questions that you would like to have addressed during the class discussion. Please send these to me before 3 pm on Thursday. Each student also will be expected to lead part of one seminar discussion, including a formal presentation and a 7 page paper (due the following week) addressing the question related to the assigned readings. Students also will be required to write one major paper (approx. 20-25 pages) focusing on one of the themes developed during the course of the semester. The paper is due Monday, December 8 by 4 p.m. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each weekday they are late. The format should be coherent and consistent, and include a bibliography. Since this is the final product of the course, I expect a thoughtful, finely crafted essay. The research paper will count for approximately one third of your grade. The reaction papers, formal presentation, 7 page paper, and regular class participation will make up the remaining two thirds of your grade.

Required Readings

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

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Militants and Citizens: The Politics of Participatory Democracy in Porto Alegre, Stanford University Press, 2005.

Youssef Cohen, Radicals, Reformers and Revolutionaries, University of Chicago Press, 1994.
Paul Haber, Power From Experience: Urban Popular Movements in Late Twentieth Century Mexico, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006.
Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Crisis, Breakdown and Reequilibration, John Hopkins University Press, 1978.
Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe Schmitter and Laurence Whitehead eds., Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America, John Hopkins University Press, 1986.
Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions, John Hopkins University Press, 1986.
Julia Paley, Marketing Democracy: Power and Social Movements in Post-Dictatorship Chile, U of Cal Press, 2001.
Arturo Valenzuela, The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile, John Hopkins University Press, 1978.
Deborah Yashar, Contesting Citizenship in Latin America, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

A course packet with additional required readings can be purchased from Orange & Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th St., (375-2707).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1, August 29: Introduction

Week 2, September 5: Breakdown of Democratic Regimes

Question: Structural factors can limit the capacity of democratic regimes to manage crises, but the breakdown of democratic regimes in Latin America cannot be explained without paying attention to political processes and to the beliefs and preferences of elite actors. Discuss.

Linz and Stepan, all.

Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil," in Linz and Stepan (eds.) The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America (John Hopkins University Press, 1978).

Valenzuela, all.

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Reflections on the Patterns of Change in the Bureaucratic Authoritarian State," Latin American Research Review 13:1 (1978), 3-38.

Cohen, all.

Week 3, September 12: Regime Transition and Democratization

Question: Can the same approach used by Linz and Stepan to explain democratic breakdown be used to explain transitions from authoritarianism? Or would you agree with O'Donnell and Schmitter that structural factors are even less determinant during transitions from authoritarian rule than they are during the breakdown of democratic regimes?

O'Donnell, Schmitter and Whitehead, all.

O'Donnell and Schmitter, all.

Terry Lynn Karl, "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America," Comparative Politics

(October 1990), 1-21.

Philip J. Williams, "Dual Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Popular and Electoral Democracy in Nicaragua," Comparative Politics, Vol. 26, No. 2 (January 1994).

Week4, September 19: Issues in Democratic Consolidation

Question: How do we know when Latin America democracies have become consolidated? What are the major obstacles to democratic consolidation in Latin America?

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Delegative Democracy," Journal of Democracy 5:1 (January 1994), 55-69.

[Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, "Towards Consolidated Democracies," Journal of Democracy 7, 2 \(1996\).](#)

[Andreas Schedler - What is Democratic Consolidation? - Journal of Democracy 9:2 \(1998\).](#)

Omar G. Encarnación, "The Strange Persistence of Latin American Democracy," World Policy Journal 20:4 (Winter 2003/2004). <http://worldpolicy.org/journal/articles/wpj03-4/encarnacion.html>

Marta Lagos Cruz-Coke, "Latin America's Diversity of Views," Journal of Democracy 19,1 (2008). http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v019/19.1lagos.html

Week 5, September 26: The Military and Democratization

Question: "There is no doubt that there is not today...the political space either internally or internationally for a military offensive against the new democracies." Do you agree or disagree?

Wendy Hunter, "Continuity or Change? Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Argentina, Chile, and Peru," Political Science Quarterly 112:3 (1997), 453-475.

David Pion-Berlin and Craig Arcenaux, "Tipping the Civil-Military Balance: Institutions and Human Rights Policy in Democratic Argentina and Chile," Comparative Political Studies 31:5 (October 1998), 633-661.

[Consuelo Cruz and Rut C. Diamint - The New Military Autonomy in Latin America - Journal of Democracy 9:4 \(1998\).](#)

David S. Pion-Berlin, "Political Management of the Military in Latin America," Military Review (Jan-Feb, 2005).

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0PBZ/is_1_85/ai_n13824764/print?tag=artBody;col1

Thomas C. Bruneau, "Civil-Military Relations in Latin America: The Hedgehog and the Fox Revisited," Revista Fuerzas Armadas y Sociedad, Año 19 • N° 1 (2005).

<http://www.fasoc.cl/files/articulo/ART43621e2ec5e12.pdf>

Week 6, October 3: Democratic Institutions I - The Perils of Presidentialism?

Question: "Does it make a difference whether [Latin American] societies seek to strengthen democratic institutions according to the U.S. constitutional principle of separation of powers or to some form of European parliamentarism?"

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," in (eds.) Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, The Global Resurgence of Democracy (John Hopkins University Press, 1996), pp.124-142 .

Matthew Shugart and Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America: Rethinking the Terms of the Debate," in (eds.) Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 12-54.

Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, "Conclusion: Presidentialism and the Party System," in (eds.) Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 394-439.

[Arturo Valenzuela, Latin American Presidencies Interrupted, Journal of Democracy, 15:4 \(2004\).](#)

Week 7, October 10: Democratic Institutions II - Parties and Party Systems

Question: Democracy in Latin America requires strong party systems. Discuss.

Michael Coppedge, "The Evolution of Latin American Party Systems," in Politics, Society, and Democracy.

Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America, chs. 1 & 14.

Philip Williams and Guillermina Seri, "The Limits of Reformism: The Rise and Fall of Christian Democracy in El Salvador and Guatemala," in (eds.) Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, Christian Democracy in Latin America: Electoral Competition and Regime Conflicts (Stanford University Press, 2003).

Steven Levitsky and Maxwell Cameron, "Democracy Without Parties? Political Parties and Regime Change in Fujimori's Peru," Latin American Politics and Society (Fall 2003).

[Christopher Sabatini, "Decentralization and Political Parties, Journal of Democracy 14:2 \(2003\).](#)

Week 8, October 17: Democracy with Adjustment

Question: Transitions to democracy and market-oriented economies in Latin America highlight the incompatibility between neoliberal economic programs and democratic consolidation. Discuss.

Philip Oxhorn and Graciela Ducatzenzeiler, "The Problematic Relationship Between Economic and Political Liberalization," in Oxhorn and Starr (eds) Markets and Democracy in Latin America (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999).

[Kurt Weyland, "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record," Latin American Politics and Society 46:1 \(2004\).](#)

Franciso Panizza, "Beyond 'Delegative Democracy': 'Old Politics' and 'New Economics' in Latin America," Journal of Latin American Studies 32 (October 2000).

[http://www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-216X\(200010\)32:3%3C737:B'D'PA%3E2.0.CO;2-Z&cookieSet=1](http://www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-216X(200010)32:3%3C737:B'D'PA%3E2.0.CO;2-Z&cookieSet=1)
[Eduardo Lora and Ugo Panizza, "The Future of Structural Reform," Journal of Democracy 14:2 \(2003\).](#)

Week 9, October 24: Homecoming

Week 10, October 31: Social Movements and Democracy in Chile

Question: What does Paley's study tell us about the impact of democratic transitions on political grassroots mobilization?

Paley, all.

Week 11, November 7: Urban Popular Movements and Democracy in Mexico

Question: What can we learn from Haber's study about the potential impact of urban popular movements on processes of democratization?

Haber, all.

Week 12, November 14: Indigenous Movements in Latin America

Question: Account for the varying political impact of indigenous movements in Latin America.

Yashar, all.

Week 13, November 21: Participatory Democracy in Brazil

Question: What does the Porto Alegre experience teach us about the possibilities and limits of grassroots democracy?

Baiocchi, all.

Week 14, November 28: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15, December 5: The Left in Latin America

Question: How do we explain the Left's political resurgence in Latin America? What are the consequences for U.S. policy toward the region?

[Jorge G. Castaneda, "Latin America's Left Turn," Foreign Affairs, May/June 2006.](#)
Matthew R. Cleary, "Explaining the Left's Resurgence," [Journal of Democracy 17:1 \(October 2006\).](#) http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v017/17.4cleary.html

Peter Hakim, "Is Washington Losing Latin America?" Foreign Affairs, January/February 2006. <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20060101faessay85105/peter-hakim/is-washington-losing-latin-america.html>

Hector E. Schamis, "Populism, Socialism, and Democratic Institutions," Journal of Democracy 17:1 (October 2006). http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v017/17.4schamis.html

December 8: Papers Due