

Introduction to Latin American Politics-CPO 3303 Spring 2009

Suggested Topics for Research Papers:

- 1) Choose a Latin American country (other than the ones covered in class) and discuss the role of social movements (women's movements, indigenous movements, etc.) in its recent political development?
- 2) Assess the impact of US policy toward one Latin American country over the past 20 years.
- 3) Account for the resurgence of the Left in one or more Latin American countries. Has the Left been any more successful in addressing the issue of social justice?
- 4) Choose a Latin American country and analyze the role of religion in recent political transformations.
- 5) Assess the economic and social impact of neo-liberal economic reforms in a Latin American country of your choice. On balance, has the economic and social impact of these reforms been positive or negative?
- 6) Discuss the political impact of a crime-related issue (e.g. drugs, terrorism, corruption) on a Latin American country in recent years. Have government efforts to deal with this problem been successful - why/why not?
- 7) Analyze the role of the military in a Latin American country (other than the ones covered in class). Is the military no longer a threat to democracy?
- 8) Assess the role of political parties in strengthening or undermining democratic consolidation in a Latin American country of your choice.
- 9) Discuss environmental challenges in a country of your choice. Have environmental movements been successful in shaping the government's environmental policies?

Comments:

- 1) Your paper should be structured around a general argument or thesis. Be prepared to develop your argument/thesis and support it with evidence drawn from your research.
- 2) The paper should be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 6-7 pp.
- 3) Please use MLA style basic in-text citations when citing sources.
- 4) Remember that plagiarizing will not be tolerated and will be punished. According to one dictionary, to plagiarize is to "use and pass off as one's own the ideas or writings of another" (American Heritage: 1044). If you have any doubts or questions about plagiarizing, speak with Prof. Williams.

Paper Deadlines:

- 1) Topic: Tuesday, February 10. In addition to clearly stating your paper topic you should provide a brief (1 paragraph) description of your study.
- 2) Bibliography: Tuesday, March 17. Your bibliography must include 2 or more academically oriented books, 2 or more academic journal articles, and at least 2 internet sources (e.g. article, info from homepage). Some examples of accepted journals include: Latin American Research Review, Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin America Politics and Society, Latin American Perspectives, Foreign Affairs, Current History, NACLA, Journal of Democracy.
- 3) Final Paper: Friday, April 24 by 12 noon. Late papers will lose one full letter grade for each weekday they are late.