

Latin American Politics

POLT 33100 -- Spring 2009

MWF 1:00-1:50

Friends 302

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office hours: M/F: 2-3:30, T 2:00-5:00 or by appt.

This course is an introduction to the study of contemporary Latin American Politics. It examines the historical experiences of different Latin American countries to understand broad current patterns of development and change in the region. This course will pay particular attention to internal political and socio-economic structures and behaviors of actors, as well as international forces, such as the historical role of the United States and globalization in the region. The course will be taught through a combination of lecture and group discussions, with a heavy component of critical analysis of readings on the part of students. We will also have occasional speakers and movies to supplement the readings. Some of the main questions that will be addressed throughout the course are: How does the colonial history, the “politics” of independence, modernization, and economic growth, and U.S. influence weigh on political stability of Latin American nations in the past and today? Do institutions play a role in fostering democratic consolidation? How do elected representatives interact among themselves? To what extent are new left governments and social movements promoting social change to the region, and what challenges are they presenting to the US influence in the region?

The broad goal of the course is for students to acquire sufficient familiarity with the history and politics of the region in order to discern patterns and constraints on political and economic development. As with other politics courses, students’ learning outcomes will be measured, as students demonstrate: 1. a capacity for critical writing, 2. global awareness and understanding, 3. critical self-consciousness about their ethical positions vis-à-vis political and civil life, 4. sensitivity to and understanding of multiple perspectives, eg. class, race, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality, and 5. a capacity to apply ideas to lived contexts.

Required Books:

- 1) Anibal Perez-Linan. 2007. Presidential Impeachment and the new Political instability in Latin America. Cambridge Univ Press.
- 2) Henry Veltmeyer. 2007. On the Move: The Politics of Social Change in Latin America. Broadview Press.

3) David Stoll. 2007. Rigoberta Menchu and the story of all poor Guatemalans
Westview Press.

4) Course Reader, available to buy @ 309 Muller Center

Requirements/Grades:

Film analysis (2-3 pgs) – 7%

Group presentation – 8%

Take home midterm/essay – 20%

Book review (5-6 pgs) – 20%

Research paper (10-12 pgs)– 30%

Participation – 15%

1. Analysis of Film. You will watch any of the following films (dates/times listed in the class schedule) or one from FLEFF festival (if approved) and write a 2-3 pg. analysis. Your analysis should discuss the general points/events of the film, and your point of view about how the film depicts Latin American politics. Rolling deadline but all DUE by APRIL 27th (7% of grade)

FILMS to choose from:

-Looking for the Revolution (on Bolivia)

-Judge and the General (on Chile)

-Machuca (on Chile)

-The Kids (on Colombian child soldiers)

-or a film from the FLEFF film festival, but you need to discuss it with me first. (March 30-April 5)

2. Group Presentation: The class will divide up in three groups and each will present on specific chapters of the book by Perez-Linan, *Presidential Impeachments and the New Political Disorder*. Each group will present and lead class discussion that day, providing to the rest of the class a summary and critique of the chapters, raising questions, inciting discussion. Your grade will be based on my criteria as well as evaluations of your own group's peers. (8% of grade).

Presentation days: Presidential Impeachments

Ch 1-3: March 20

Ch 4-5: March 23

Ch 6-7: March 25

3. Take home (midterm) due FEB 23th: the midterm will be in form of one or two essays for which I will provide the questions at least one week before due date. It is based on the course readings and lectures up until Feb 20th. 20% of grade

4. book review (5-6pgs): 20% (your choice of either of these two):

a) critical review of David Stoll's book (Rigoberta Menchu and the story of all poor Guatemalans)— this is not to be a summary of the book, but a critical analysis (DUE MARCH 2nd)

OR

b) critical review of Henry Veltmeyer's book on social change in Latin America - this is not to be a summary of the book, but a critical analysis (DUE APRIL 15th)

5. A paper is due DUE MAY 4 – 10-12 pages in length. This paper is to be a short research paper on a topic related to the second part of the course (from Feb 6th). You will need to submit a paragraph about what your topic or question is for my approval by March 6th if not before. You will schedule time with me to talk about the paper topic. see guidelines pg 9. (30% of grade)

6. Participation-15% grade

I expect everyone to participate actively in class discussions and to keep up with readings. The class has a heavy component of discussion, and you should come prepared to contribute to each class. Consistent failure to come prepared will significantly lower your participation grade, as will failure to maintain regular attendance.

Class policies:

-attendance/lateness: attendance is mandatory, and your participation is a significant part of your grade, your learning as an individual and as a group. You are allowed to have three unexcused absences from the class during the entire semester. If more, I will start lowering your participation grade and may drop you from the class. I expect you to get to class on time as a courtesy to me and to your fellow classmates.

If you have any life circumstance that makes it difficult to carry out the coursework, notify me to make appropriate arrangements as soon as possible. In the case of extended absence due to illness, I will require a detailed note from your doctor.

-Late Papers: I will deduct 10 pts from papers that are late and 20 pts if they more than a week late.

-Academic Honesty: I expect students to be acquainted with academic misconduct criteria included in Article 7.1.4 of the IC Policy Manual. Students found in violation of such policy will be reported to the appropriate administrative staff. If you have any questions or are having trouble in the writing process, please come see me so that we can avoid any further consequences.

***In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation will be provided to students with documented disabilities on a case by case basis. Students must register with the Office of Academic Support Services and provide appropriate documentation to the college before any academic adjustment will be provided.

CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS:

Note: I reserve the right to change/add to any of the readings, but will provide timely notice and copies.

Part I: Colonial era, independence, and US imperial era – Political impact in Latin America

Wednesday January 21: Introduction, syllabus, questions...

Friday January 23: colonial politics

1. Ronald Schneider, 2007. *Latin American Political History*, pp 35-60 (reader)
2. Eduardo Galeano, 1973. *Open Veins of Latin America*, pp. 11-18. (reader)

Monday January 26: -The legacy of colonialism & independence

1. Schneider 2007. *Latin American Political History*; pp. 75-81 & 97-108 (Reader)
- 2, Loveman, Brian. 1999. *For la Patria: Politics and the Armed Forces in Latin America*, pp. 27-43 (Reader)

Wednesday January 28 -Conservative and liberal ideological roots of republics-- Chile

1. Simon Collier 2003. *The Making of a Republic*, pp 3-37 & 76-92. (reader)

Friday January 30: Looking In and Outward

1. Simon Collier, 2003. *The Making of a Republic*, pp. 145-153 & 167-183. (Reader)
2. Eduardo Galeano, 1973. *Open Veins of Latin America*, pp. 116-129. (Reader)

Monday February 2 -US Hegemony & Interventionism

1. Peter Smith, 2008. *Talons of the Eagle* 13-41. (reader)
2. Eldon Kenworthy, 1995. *America/Americas: Myth in the making of Foreign Policy Toward Latin America*. pp. 13-37. (reader)

Wednesday February 4: Central America

1. Peter Smith, 2008. *Talons of the Eagle* 45-80 (reader)
2. R. Schneider, 2007. *Latin American Political History*, pp. 155-158 & 195-197. (reader)

Part II - Development Strategies, Labor, the US, and Political (in)Stability-1930s-1980s

Friday Feb 6 Labor, class, structure, ISI

1. R. Schneider, 2007. *Latin American Political History*. 233-247 (Peron). (reader)
2. Lois Oppenheim 2007. *Politics in Chile: Socialism, Authoritarianism, and Market Democracy*. pp. 3-28. (reader)

Monday February 9

1. R. Schneider; p. 273-278. (reader)
2. Juan Pablo Sainz, 1999. *From the Finca to the Maquila: Coffee and Bananas*, pp. 9-16, & 21-30. (Reader)

Wednesday February 11: Social groups, social change 1960s

1. Anthony DePalma, 2006. *The Man who Invented Fidel*. p. 93-146; film: Fidel Castro (Reader)

*****FILM NIGHT: CORNELL URIS AUDITORIUM FILM- CUSLAR 7pm
“Looking for the Revolution” (on the Morales government in Bolivia)*****

Friday February 13

1. Anthony DePalma 2006. *The Man who Invented Fidel*, p. 147-171. (Reader)
2. Kenworthy, 1995. *America/Americas*. pp. 38-53 (Reader)

Monday February 16 Chile’s Popular Unity *Hand out essay question

1. Lois Oppenheim 2007. *Politics in Chile: Socialism, Authoritarianism, and Market Democracy*, p. 31-59. (Reader)

Wednesday February 18 Causes of UP collapse

1. L. Oppenheim, p. 59-97. (Reader)

Friday February 20: Discussion on Military Interventions

1. Loveman, Brian. 1999. For la Patria: Politics and the Armed Forces in Latin America, pp. 227-250. (Reader)
2. L. Oppenheim, p. 101-123. (Reader)

Monday February 23 Central America 1955-1980

1. David Stoll. 2008. *Rigoberta Menchu and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans*. p. ix-xxv & 1-40.

TAKE HOME ESSAY DUE! FEB 23 1pm

Wednesday February 25

1. Stoll, pp. 43-123.

*****FILM NIGHT: CORNELL URIS AUDITORIUM FILM- CUSLAR 7pm
The Judge and the General; documentary on Pinochet and the attempt to bring him to justice for human rights violations*****

Friday February 27

1. Stoll, pp. 125-200.

Monday March 2: Discussion of book

1. Stoll, pp. 273-301.

STOLL BOOK REVIEW Due today, OR ELSE on April 15

Wednesday March 4 U.S. Latin American Relations 1970-90s

1. Eldon Kenworthy, 1995. America/Americas 114-139; 167-174. (Reader)

Friday March 6:

1. Eldon Kenworthy, 1995. America/Americas. pp. 140-158. (Reader)
2. Richard Millet, 1990. The aftermath of intervention: Panama 1990. *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World affairs*, 1, pp. 1-15. (Blackboard)

PAPER TOPIC DUE today! One paragraph

March 9-15 SPRING BREAK!!

Part III - Democratic Consolidation and Threats to Democracy

Monday March 16: Economic Policy- Washington Consensus

1. Henry Veltmeyer, 2007. *On the move*. pp.7-53; 85-108.

Wednesday March 18: Struggle for democracy

1. Frances Hagopian. 1993. "After Regime Change: Authoritarian Legacies, Political Representation, and Democratic Future of South America." *World Politics*, April, v. 45 (3).

Friday March 20: Institutional transformations and continuities: PRESIDENTIALISM

1. Perez-Linan, Anibal. 2007. Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-63. *Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America*.

GROUP 1 PRESENTATION

Monday March 23:

1. Perez-Linan, Anibal. Chapters 4-5, pp. 64-131. *Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America*.

GROUP 2 PRESENTATION

Wednesday March 25-

1. Perez-Linan, Anibal. Chapters 6-7, pp. 132-213. *Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America*.

GROUP 3 PRESENTATION

*****FILM NIGHT: CORNELL URIS AUDITORIUM FILM- CUSLAR 7pm
"The Kids": documentary on child soldiers in Colombia *****

Friday March 27: Parties, Legislative, and Strategic Behavior of Actors

1. Morgenstern, Scott and Benito Nacif (ed.). 2002. *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. Chapter 1, Towards a Model of Latin American Legislatures, pp. 1-5. (ebook @ IC library: title of book: Legislative Politics in Latin America)

2. Benito Nacif. 2002. Understanding Party Discipline in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. In *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. pp. 254-184. (ebook @ IC library)

Monday March 30—*FLEFF Begins

1. Peter Siavelis. 2002. Exaggerated Presidentialism and Moderate Presidents: Executive-Legislative Relations in Chile. In *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. pp. 79-113. (ebook @ IC library)
2. Carlos Huneeus. Chile: A system frozen by elite interests. ACE project (in reader)

Wednesday April 1: Clientelism and Party Politics

1. Javier Auyero, 2007. In Routine Politics and Violence in Argentina: The Gray Zone of State Power. 31-71. (reader)

Friday April 3: (New) Left Governments

1. H. Veltmeyer, *On the move*. pp. 55-84.
2. F. Coronil and Julie Skurski. 2006. Dismembering and Remembering the Nation: The Semantics of Political Violence in Venezuela. (In Coronil and Skurski, *States of Violence*), pp. 83-152.

Monday April 6:

1. H. Veltmeyer, *Book: On the move*; p. 131-167.

Wednesday April 8: Indigenous; Film: *Apaga y Vamonos*

1. P. Rodriguez and David Carruthers. 2008. Testing Democracy's Promise: Indigenous Mobilization and the Chilean State. *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*. pp. 3-21. (blackboard)

Friday April 10th: NO CLASS; I will be out of town--Washington seminar

Monday April 13: Land reform

1. Veltmeyer, *Book: on the move*, p. 109-129.

Wednesday April 15 --- Discussion on new political trends

VELTMEYER Book review due today 1pm

Friday April 17 – The military after authoritarianism

1. Trinkunas, Harold. 2004. Venezuela: the remilitarization of politics. In Kees Koonings and Kirk Kruijt, *Armed actors*, p. 106-126. (reader)

Monday April 20 U-S. – Latin American relations under Bush

1. Peter Smith, 2008. Ch11, pp. 337-368.

Wed April 22:

1. Task Force Report. 2008. US-LA Relations: A New Direction for a new reality.
Council on Foreign Relations, INTRO, pg 26-33. (BLACKBOARD)
2. Peter Smith, 2008. Ch 12, pp. 369-394

*****FILM NIGHT: CORNELL URIS AUDITORIUM FILM- CUSLAR 7pm
“Machuca” on the military coup in Chile and its effects in poor popular sectors *****

Friday April 24 -Latin America --foreign relations, exploring new options

1. Task Force Report. 2008. US-LA Relations: A New Direction for a new reality.
Council on Foreign Relations, Recommendations, pg 78-96. (BLACKBOARD)

Monday April 27: Crime

1. Ariel Armony. Fields of Citizenship. In *Citizenship in Latin America*, pp. 95-110.
2. Luis Bitencourt. 2007. Crime and Violence: Challenges to Democracy in Brazil. In *Citizenship in Latin America*, pp. 171-182.

Wednesday April 29: FILM: Central Station or City of God

Friday May 1: discussion of film/crime issue

Monday May 4: WRAP UP & presentations (optional) LAST DAY

Papers due, no exceptions! 1 pm

NOTE: I may assign one more reading, depending on the number of presentations

Thursday May 7: Final exam time --7:30-10am presentations (optional)

Guidelines for Paper POLT 33100

- 10-12 pg. paper, double-spaced and numbered.
- Style, citations: open but preferably APA.
- **Due May 4**, no exceptions
- **IMPORTANT:** by **March 6**, hand in a paragraph about your selected topic, and how you plan to divide your paper (what subtopics).
- Sources: You can use books, journal articles, newspaper reports; I would like to see at least 5 sources used. NOTE limit your use of web reports, check with me.

Topics:

You can write about any topic related to the second part of the course; anything that interests you about Latin American politics. I am open to any ideas about topics for this paper, so discuss it with me. It is a short paper, so you have to try to delineate your topic with a lot of focus, as your paper should draw some type of conclusion about the topic that you write about.

It is critical to present a main argument, and to state it upfront in your paper. It is a good idea to divide your paper into sections, each focusing on the different parts in which you will present your evidence that supports the argument. You can choose to present a literature review in one of those sections, and then frame your argument based on your own interpretation of how well the literature explains the issue, or the strong and weak points. Conversely, you can make use of the literature inside the different sections of your paper, without presenting a specific section on what the literature says. It is up to you how you organize what the literature says within your overall argument.

Come see me if you have questions!