

POLS 311 POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA

Fall 2020 - Tentative Syllabus

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WEEKLY POLS 311 JOURNEY	
THURSDAY Do the readings assigned for the week	
	FRIDAY Watch the lecture video posted on Moodle
SATURDAY Post your questions on Discussion Forum on Moodle	
	SUNDAY Carry out your learning activity and post it on Instagram
MONDAY Zoom Meeting – Class discussion (14.00-15.00)*	

**The live session for this course meets on Monday ONLY.*

There will be NO meeting on Wednesday.

This course will provide an introduction to the Politics of Latin America with a focus on populism, revolution, authoritarianism and democracy. The students will explore in depth the sources of change and continuity in Latin American political processes. The struggle for political change and economic development in Latin America will be examined through a historical and theoretical analysis.

The students are expected to learn the tools for analyzing Latin American countries. In doing so, the students will have a hands-on research and writing experience: each student will work in a team of 2 to write the research paper for this course. The details of this research paper will be made available as we move along.

Readings

Students are expected to read all the assigned readings in the course pack. The instructor assumes that the readings are done apace with the course. The reading pack provides a good collection of scholarly work on Latin America that students might find useful in framing their understanding of particular issues.

Office Hours: by appointment through email (office hours will be carried out over Zoom).

Course evaluations

Assignment #1: Research Question DUE November 19 – 5%

Write down in a paragraph the research question which you would like to write your research paper on. This research question can be about a single Latin American country or can be a comparison between two countries or more. You need to clarify your research topic by reading articles and books on the area of your interest. Further details will be given in class.

Assignment #2: Bibliography and Improved Research Question DUE December 3 – 5%

You should improve your research question based on my suggestions and in the meantime conduct a thorough research in the library and web based databases for articles and books relevant to your research question and country. You should compile a list for the bibliography for your research paper. At this point it is not necessary that you read all the articles and books in this list but you should at least have skimmed through in order to know whether they will be relevant to your research. This list should not comprise less than 15 articles and 5 books.

Assignment #3 Literature Review DUE December 24 – 20%

Provide a brief literature review that justifies your study and sets the theoretical framework for your research paper. Do not forget to include the bibliography at the end.

Assignment#4 First Draft of your Research Paper DUE January 15 – 25%

You should put together the research question, literature review and the sections providing your analysis in order to compose the first draft of your research paper. This draft has to be complete in all senses. There should be an introduction, a theory section, a literature review and your analysis. This draft will be reviewed by two class mates and myself in order to provide you feedback for the second draft. Furthermore, you will need to present this paper and the findings during a special session of presentations. Further details will be announced in class.

Assignment #5 Presentation of the first draft of the paper – 10%

Assignment#6 Second Draft DUE February 10 – 5%

The second draft needs to take into account the three reviewers comments and also the feedback you receive during the presentation sessions. The grade for the second draft will be based on the amendments and improvements you will make. Therefore, papers which have not been properly improved will get zero points from this assignment.

Assignment#7 Peer review DUE January 22 (details will be announced later). 10%

You will need to review the paper of a classmate. This has to be substance related review and should make suggestions and recommendations to improve the paper. You have to act as if you are grading the paper. Further details will be announced in class.

Item #8 Participation in class 20%

Participation grade consists of the following components:

- Posting your questions, comments and responses to other's questions on the Discussion Forum (5 percent).
- Carrying out your learning activity and posting the visual on Instagram (5 percent).
- Participating in the zoom meeting and contributing to the live discussion (10 percent).

Late papers/reviews/assignments: In case you cannot make it to the deadline, do not worry. You can always get an extension by losing only 3 percent per day of the grade of that particular assignment.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious problem and refers to dishonestly representing someone else's ideas as your own. Plagiarism is punished by disciplinary committee and usually results in an F as course grade and sometimes heavier penalties. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences (<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/favoidingplagiarism.htm>).

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult: http://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Publications/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic F in the assignment or the exam,
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee,
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty,
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs,
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department.

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The reading list is tentative. It may change!

Week 1

Introduction to the course

No assigned reading. Watch the course trailer. Examine the course syllabus and the course page on Moodle. We will discuss course logistics and have a discussion on discussions.

Week 2

Introduction to Politics of Latin America

Wiarda, H. J. and H. F. Kline, "The Context of Latin American Politics" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) Latin American Politics and Development. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

Hillman, R. "Introduction" in Hillman ed. Understanding Contemporary Latin America. 2005. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

A brief history of the region

PDFS. Federici. 2004. (2004) *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia. (last chapter on the new world)

POPULISM

Week 3

The economic background

Knippers Black, J. "Introduction: Understanding the persistence of Inequity" in J. Knippers Black ed. *Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise*. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

Political actors of Latin America

Wiarda, H. J. and H. F. Kline, "Interest Groups and Political Parties" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

Week 4

Populism

Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1988, pp. 7-40.

Argentina

Ardanaz, M. "The Politics of Federalism in Argentina and its Implications for Governance and Accountability" *World Development* 53: 26-45, 2014.

Background: Linda Chen. "Argentina in the Twenty-first Century" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

Week 5

REVOLUTION

The Working Classes

Ian Roxborough, "Urban Labour Movements in Latin America since 1930", in Leslie Bethell (ed.), *Latin America: Politics and Society since 1930*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 219-290.

The Rural Sectors

James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, "The Peasantry and the State in Latin America: a Troubled Past, an Uncertain Future", in Tom Brass (ed.), *Latin American Peasants*, London, Frank Cass, 2003, chapter 2, pp.41-75.

Week 6

Revolution

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, *Guerrilla Warfare*, New York, Vintage, 1968, chapter 1, pp.1-31.

Cuba

Katrin Hansing / Bert Hoffmann. 2019. Cuba's New Social Structure: Assessing the Re-Stratification of Cuban Society 60 Years after Revolution GIGA Working Paper, No. 315, February 2019.

Feinsilver, JM. 1989. Cuba as a World Medical Power: The politics of symbolism. *Latin American Research Review*. 24(2).

Babb, F. 2011. "Che, Chevys, and Hemingway's Daiquiris: Cuban Tourism in a Time of Globalisation" *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 30(1).

Week 7

AUTHORITARIANISM

Electoral democracies

D'Agostino, T.J. "Latin American Politics" in R.S. Hillman (ed.) *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. 2005. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

The politicized state

Douglas Chalmers, "The Politicized State in Latin America", in James Malloy (ed.), *Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America*, Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1977, pp. 23-45.

Week 8

Bureaucratic Authoritarianism

Manuel Antonio Garretón, *The Chilean Political Process*, Boston Unwin Hyman, 1989, pp. 68-114.

Chile

Claudia Heiss.2017. "Legitimacy crisis and the constitutional problem in Chile: A legacy of authoritarianism" *Constellations*, 24.

Arturo Valenzuela, "Chile: Origins and Consolidation of a Latin American Democracy", in Larry Diamond *et al.*, *Democracy in Developing Countries: Latin America*, Boulder, Lynne Rienner, 1999, pp. 190-247.

Week 9

REDEMOCRATIZATION

Redemocratization and Neo-liberalism

Roberts, K. 2016. "Democracy in the Developing World: Challenges of Survival and Significance." *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 51(1): 32-49.

Judith A. Teichman "Competing Visions of Democracy and Development in the Era of Neoliberalism in Mexico and Chile" *International Political Science Review*. 2009. 30(1): 67-87.

Week 10

Brazil

Wampler, B. "When does participatory democracy deepen the quality of democracy? Lessons from Brazil" *Comparative Politics* 41(1): 61-81, 2008.

Mexico

Morton, A. D. "The War on Drugs in Mexico: a failed state?" *Third World Quarterly* 33(9): 1631-1645, 2012.

Week 11

Current Issues in Latin America

Eaton, Kent. 2014. "Recentralization and the Left Turn in Latin America Diverging Outcomes in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela." *Comparative Political Studies* 47 (8): 1130-57.

Jorge Lanzaro 2011. "Uruguay: A Social Democratic Government in Latin America" *The resurgence of the Latin American left*. edited by Steven Levitsky and Kenneth M. Roberts.

Villalba, U. "Buen Vivir vs. Development: a paradigm shift in the Andes" *Third World Quarterly* 34(8): 1427-1442, September 2013.

Week 12

Challenges for Latin America

The challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean regarding financing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43421/1/S1800195_en.pdf