

CPO 3303-01
Latin American Politics
Fall 2006
Room: 115 Bellamy
T,TH: 3:35-4:50

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the politics of Latin America. The course is framed around the region's struggle for political order and economic development. In the first half of the semester, we will address political instability in Latin America, focusing on socio-economic and institutional explanations of order and growth. In the second half of the semester, we will consider the region's experience with democracy, and ask how Latin American regimes have resolved the kinds of challenges that all democratic systems face.

Reading Material

The reading material for this course includes three books and a number of articles. Each book is currently available at the campus bookstore. You might also choose to purchase the books at any web-based bookstore. Amazon and AbeBooks (www.abebooks.com) both have copies.

Chasteen, John Charles. 2006. *Born in Fire and Blood: A Concise History of Latin America*. 2nd Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Dominguez, Jorge I. and Michael Shifter. 2003. *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America*, 2nd Ed. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Stokes, Susan. 2000. *Mandates and Democracy: Neoliberalism by Surprise in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.

Articles may be accessed via links on the course syllabus. If the reading is listed as "On reserve," this means that there is an electronic copy of the article available at the library. You will need a password to access the reserve, which I will distribute in class. If you have trouble, let me know.

Course Goal

My goal is to teach you how to use social science research methods to learn about core political problems in Latin America. Rather than trying to learn as many facts about Latin America as possible, you should use the information to which you have access in order to test theories about political order and representation. Here are three examples of specific questions we will ask this semester.

1. What conditions make regimes less susceptible to failure?
2. What are the conditions under which a voter will be able to hold her representative accountable for his behavior?
3. Under what conditions will international obligations constrain a state from violating human rights?

Class Meetings

This course will include both lecture and discussion. When I am not lecturing I use a form of Socratic method. I encourage you to voluntarily participate in our discussions; however, I will often get us started by calling on one of you. It is likely that I will follow questions up with further questions. So, expect to be called on at least once during the semester. This means that you need to have done the readings prior to class.

News

I encourage you all to read the New York Times, L.A. Times, Washington Post or Miami Herald online, especially their sections on Latin America. Expect me to send you articles over Blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to read them. They never take more than two minutes of your time. Also, please feel free to bring interesting articles to the attention of the class. For those of you who read Spanish, you might also check www.lanic.utexas.edu, which provides links to national newspapers across Central and South America.

Grading

Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components:

1. Attendance/Participation (10%)
Attendance is mandatory. I will assign **homework** assignments for some of our classes, which I expect you to bring to lecture. I will announce these assignments on *Blackboard*. I will not collect them, but I will call on you and take notice if you fail to complete your assignments.
2. Two Examinations (Each worth 30% of your grade)
Exams (dates listed below) are given in our classroom. They are designed to ensure that you understand the course's central concepts. My goal is not to trick you. If you attend class and do the readings you will do very well. The exams will be multiple choice.
3. Research Paper (30%)
You will write an 8-10 page paper on a question of your choosing concerning the politics of Latin America. I will provide a list of appropriate questions early in class, though you may select any question you like. Each paper must contain the following elements: 1) a research question, 2) a brief literature review, 3) a theory that answers your question derived from the literature, 3) an empirical test of your theory, 4) a conclusion. We will discuss the form of the paper in greater detail on September 1.

Writing is revision. Accordingly, you **may** turn this paper in to me up to three times (dates posted below). I will return your paper to you with comments and a temporary grade. You may re-submit the paper to me twice (if you meet the first deadline, otherwise you may only re-submit once).

Extra-Credit Work

Under no circumstances will extra credit work be permitted.

Email

I expect you to check your email. I will typically send announcements to you via email. You are responsible for the material I send electronically.

Late Paper Policy

Hard copies of all papers are to be turned in to me personally on the announced due date during class. Any paper turned in after class will be considered one day late. I will deduct one letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

Missed Exam Policy

For exams occurring during the regular semester, students will be allotted the entire class period for the exam. For final exams, students will be allotted the entire final exam period that the University has appropriated. Absences for exams will be temporarily excused for severe illness or participation in formally sanctioned University events if the proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the event. Absences will also be excused for *extraordinary events* if they are accompanied by sufficient (i.e. Health Services Excuse Forms) documentation, as defined above under “absence policy” within two calendar days of the absence or late arrival. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

If the student has been excused for the absence, she will have five working days to make up a missed exam. The instructor reserves the right to administer makeup exams of any format (multiple choice, short answer, essay), which may not necessarily correspond to the original exam’s format. If a student misses an exam and does not have an excused absence, the student will receive a zero for the exam.

Note on Extraordinary Circumstances

Events that render you unconscious and prevent you from contacting me prior to the exam count as *extraordinary*. Under no conditions will a “power-outage” or an “alarm clock failure” constitute an extraordinary circumstance.

Assignment of Letter Grades

Final course letter grades will be assigned based upon the scales shown below:

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

Incomplete Grades

No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student PRIOR TO the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.

Integrity of Scholarship

I will follow the guidelines established by the university. A summary of these guidelines can be found in the FSU Bulletin and Student Handbook. In short, don’t cheat. The benefits are small. Even if the probability of getting caught is tiny, the costs of getting caught are huge.

Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should:

1. Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC)
2. Bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. If a student's accommodations change during the semester, the student will present an updated official letter from the SDRC outlining the specific modifications.

Courtesy in the Classroom.

Classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distractions. This means no cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the professor or discussion leader), reading newspapers, etc. during class. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on "vibrate." Entering and leaving is distracting to me and to other students. Therefore, you need to be on time for class and stay until the end. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Also, please stay with the door to make sure it does not 'bang' as you enter or leave. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade.

Class discussions of political issues can often stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions need to be scholarly. Scholarly comments are:

- Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement.
- Related to the class and course material. Scholarly comments advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs.
- Are delivered in normal tones and in a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable behaviors in our classroom include:

- Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- Interrupting other students is unacceptable. Raise your hand and wait to be called on either by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem.
- Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive are unacceptable.

Ignoring my authority to protect the integrity of the classroom is unacceptable. When you are asked to discontinue a conversation that violates the guidelines that are outlined above, I expect you to stop.

Class Schedule

Part 1. Order and Disorder in Latin America

August 29 – Introductions, Requirements, and Course Summary

August 31 – No Class (APSA)

September 5 – No Class

September 7 – What is Latin America?

- [Inglehart, Ronald and Marita Carballo. 1997. "Does Latin America Exist? \(And Is There a Confucian Culture?\): A Global Analysis of Cross-Cultural Differences." *Political Science and Politics*. 30\(Mar.\): 34-47.](#)
- **Assignment 1**

September 12 – Pre-colonial and colonial Latin America

- Chasteen, Chapters 1 & 2

September 14 – Political Thought in the Americas

- [Simón Bolívar. Message to the Congress of Angostura \(1819\)](#)
- [Federalist 10](#) and [Federalist 51](#)
- **Assignment 2**

September 19 – Independence and Disorder

- Chasteen, Chapters 4-6

September 21 – What does it mean to study Latin American politics scientifically?

- [King, Keohane and Verba, Chapter 1](#)
- **Assignment 3**

September 26 – North and South Differences

- [Coatsworth, John H. 1978. "Obstacles to Economic Growth in Nineteenth-Century Mexico." *The American Historical Review*. 83 \(Feb\): 80-100.](#)
- [Sokoloff, Kenneth L. and Stanley L. Engerman. 2000. "History Lessons: Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 14 \(Summer\): 217-232.](#)

September 28 – North and South Differences 2

- [North, Douglass C., William Summerhill and Barry R. Weingast. 2000. "Order, Disorder and Economic Change: Latin America vs. North America." In Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Hilton Root, Eds. *Governing for Prosperity*. New Haven: Yale University Press.](#)
- **Assignment 4**

October 3 – The Military

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 3

October 5 – Colombia

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 9

October 10 – Human Rights in Latin America

- [Harbury, Chapter 1](#)

October 12 – Human Rights in Latin America

- [Harbury, Chapter 2](#)
- **Assignment 5**

October 17 – Human Rights in Latin America

- [Camp Keith, Linda. 1999. "The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Does It Make a Difference in Human Rights Behavior?" *Journal of Peace Research*. 36 \(Jan.\): 95-118.](#)
- **RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT MAY BE TURNED IN**

October 19 – Midterm

Part 1 ½ A Useful Diversion Prior to the Election

October 24 – Latino Immigration

- [Huntington, Samuel. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy*. March/April Edition \(On Reserve\)](#)
- [Fraga, Luis R. and Gary M. Segura. 2006. "Culture Clash? Competing Notions of American Identity and the Effects of American Immigration." *Perspectives on Politics*. 4 \(June\): 279-287.](#)
- **Assignment 6**

October 26 – Latino Immigration

- [Eckstein, Susan. 2006. "Cuban Émigrés and the American Dream." *Perspectives on Politics*. 4 \(June\): 297-307.](#)
- [Staton, Jeffrey K., Robert Jackson and Damarys Canache. Forthcoming \(2007\). "Dual Nationality Among Latinos: What Are the Implications for Political-Connectedness?" *Journal of Politics*](#)

Part 2. Democracy in Latin America

October 31 – Presidentialism and Representative Institutions

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 2

November 2 – Presidentialism and Representative Institutions

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 8

November 7 – Descriptive and Substantive Representation

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 6

November 9 – Economic Policy in Latin America

- Domínguez and Shifter, Chapter 4

November 14 – Representation and Mandate Violation

- Stokes, Chapters 1-2
- **Assignment 7**

November 16 – Explaining Mandate Violation

- Stokes, Chapters 3-4

November 21 – Citizen Responses to Mandate Violation and Implications

- Stokes, Chapters 5-6
- **RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT MAY BE TURNED IN**

November 23 – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28 – Judiciaries and the Rule of Law in Latin America

- [Helmke, Gretchen. 2002. "The Logic of Strategic Defection: Court-Executive Relations in Argentina under Dictatorship and Democracy." *The American Political Science Review* 96 \(June\): 291-303.](#)

November 30 – Judiciaries and the Rule of Law in Latin America

- [Brinks, Daniel M. 2003. "Informal Institutions and the Rule of Law: The Judicial Response to State Killings in Buenos Aires and São Paulo in the 1990s" *Comparative Politics*. 36: \(On reserve\)](#)
- **Assignment 8**

December 5 – Judiciaries and the Rule of Law in Latin America

- [Staton, Jeffrey K. 2004 "Judicial Policy Implementation in Mexico City and Mérida." *Comparative Politics*. 37 \(October\): 41-60.](#)

December 7 – Review

December 14 – Final Exam, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

- **FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE TODAY (AT THE EXAM)**