

POLI 375 - Latin American Politics

Fall 2018

Mondays, 5:00-7:30 PM, CCC 234

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Office Hours: Tues. 10-11 am & Weds. noon-1pm
and by appointment

Course Description

Latin America, historically characterized by patterns of authoritarianism, inequality, racism, and machismo, and long subject to domination by foreign powers, experienced dramatic changes in the twentieth century that continue to unfold in the new millennium. Beginning at the end of the 1970s, a wave of democratization swept out dictatorships and military governments and simultaneously ushered in a major economic shift to more free market policies. Today every country in the region, except socialist Cuba, claims to be a democracy, although the quality and degree of consolidation varies considerably. Hugo Chávez's election in 1998 marked the start of another important wave: the resurgence of the left in the form of the election of "new left" presidents in numerous countries who pushed back against the neoliberal economic model. Leftist political resurgence brought to power a new generation of leaders, many of whom had participated in the struggles against dictatorship and authoritarianism, and some of whom represented historically underrepresented groups, including women and indigenous peoples. The context of democracy and the efforts of organized civil society have done much to expand rights and bring new groups into the political process: LGBTQ people have won new rights in several countries, indigenous and African descendent peoples have become important political actors, and women have made significant strides towards greater equality across the region. Favorable economic conditions during the 2000s combined with new state commitments in many countries to redistributive social policies helped to lift many millions out of poverty. However, the last few years have been characterized by less favorable economic conditions at the international level. Politically the region has shifted to the right. Both these recent changes are threatening many of the significant advances made in poverty reduction during the previous decade. Many challenges remain as countries struggle to deal with the legacies of their past and to position themselves in a globalized world.

Contemporary political struggles and debates in Latin America offer a wealth of important, controversial, and cutting-edge ideas with which to grapple that have relevance not just for the region, but globally for the twenty-first century. These include debates about democracy, populism, and socialism; globalization; the role of the state in the economy; human rights and accountability; the media and politics; environmentalism and development; among others. In this course we will study current issues and debates and endeavor to understand the historical processes that helped to shape the present. The course begins with an overview of the region's history and patterns of politics and then moves on to study political development and contemporary political issues and struggles in the following four countries: Cuba, Brazil, Guatemala, and Ecuador, which represent a sampling from across the diverse region known as Latin America.

Required Texts

- 1) Howard J. Wiarda and Harvey F. Kline, eds. *Latin American Politics and Development, 8th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014. (Text Rental) **Note: Hereafter referred to as W&K.**
- 2) All other readings will be accessible via D2L e-Reserves.

Course Objectives

- 1) Students will gain knowledge about major patterns in Latin American political and economic development during the twentieth century and into the present.
- 2) Students will develop in-depth knowledge about countries in four distinct regions of Latin America: Caribbean, Southern Cone, Central America, and the Andes. We will highlight distinctive features of each country and discuss the ways in which each one exemplifies common patterns in their sub-region.
- 3) Increased knowledge about contemporary political issues will increase student interest in and ability to follow current events in the region and to think critically about developments there.
- 4) Students will hone their critical thinking skills by engaging in debate and reflecting on controversial contemporary issues in Latin American politics.
- 5) Students will hone their research, analysis, writing, and oral presentation skills through the process of developing a research topic, producing a research paper, and sharing their work with the class.
- 6) Students will gain an appreciation for the struggles, contributions, and perspectives of Latin Americans.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade will be based on your performance in the following areas:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Current Events	2%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	18%
Research Paper Project (See breakdown below)	<u>50%</u>
Annotated Bibliography (15%)	
Research Paper (25%)	
In-class Presentation (10%)	
TOTAL	100%

Attendance and Participation

Class sessions will combine both lecture and discussion, with the emphasis on discussion. Attendance and participation in class discussions is a crucial part of this course and will count towards 15% of your grade. You are expected to attend all class sessions and film screenings and to come prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. More than **2** unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your attendance grade and **if you miss more than 6 classes during the semester (3 weeks) you will forfeit any points for attendance.** In addition to regular attendance, active participation in class discussions is vitally important. I will keep a record of student participation and will refer to it when I calculate this portion of your grade.

Research Paper Project

The major writing project will be a 12-15 page research paper. The project will involve four steps that together will count for 50% of your grade: a brief topic proposal (ungraded), an annotated bibliography (4-6 single-spaced pages), the research paper itself (12-15 pages), and your research presentation (10 minutes). See above for what each component is worth in relation to your final grade. Detailed instructions, guidelines, and topic suggestions will be provided early in the semester. Topic proposals will be due on **Wednesday, Sept. 26**. The Annotated Bibliography will be due on **Wednesday, October 24**. A first draft of the research paper will be due on **Sunday, Nov. 25**, and the final draft will be due on **Friday, Dec. 7**. Two class sessions (**Dec. 3 & 10**) are set aside for student research presentations.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam that students will take online and an in-class final exam during finals week. Study guides will be provided.

Current Events

We will begin each class by discussing current events in Latin America. Each student will be assigned one day during the semester to make a brief presentation on an article of interest related to Latin American politics. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the beginning of the semester. Current event presentations will not be graded; so long as you complete a presentation, you will earn full credit. This presentation counts for 2% of the final grade. Recommended newspapers with good coverage of Latin America include: *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Guardian* (London), for a non-US perspective. If you read Spanish, *Pagina 12* (Argentina) and *La Jornada* (Mexico) are also excellent sources. All of these and most other major newspapers can be accessed for free on the web.

For the purposes of keeping up with the news and developments in the region, I highly recommend that all students subscribe (its free!) to receive the Center for Economic and Policy Research's (CEPR) "Latin America News Round-up", which is delivered to your e-mail inbox a couple of times a week. This service collects current stories from a wide variety of news sources and covers important news from around the region. This is a good source to find interesting and timely articles to present in class. To subscribe to this service, go to their website: <http://www.cepr.net/> and look for the link on the right that says "Subscribe Today", then check the box for "Latin America News Roundup".

I encourage all students to get into the habit of following the news. A wonderful way to do this, even when you do not have much time, is to listen to the daily news programs on National Public Radio (NPR). Their news programs are excellent and will keep you up-to-date on current events and important issues, both domestic and international. You can hear NPR news on Wisconsin Public Radio, which has two local radio stations: the Ideas Network at 89.1 FM and News and Classical at 90.9 FM. You can also listen live and access podcasts of previous shows at www.wpr.org. Along these same lines, I also recommend the daily news program, Democracy Now! for excellent and critical coverage of national and world events from a progressive, non-mainstream perspective. This television news program is broadcast weekday mornings and can be heard anytime online at: www.democracynow.org

Movies

In an effort to bring to life the issues, countries, and people we will be studying, I will show a couple of documentaries during the semester. Depending on the length of the film, I may show all or part of it outside of our regular class time. ***These movies are an important part of the curriculum and viewing them is mandatory.*** If you cannot make an out-of-class screening please let me know so that we can make other arrangements for you to view the film.

Academic Integrity and Turnitin.com

All students are expected to abide by the guidelines for academic integrity contained in the UW System Administrative Code. As a student it behooves you to be well acquainted with these guidelines and to understand clearly what constitutes plagiarism, as violations can result in severe consequences.

We will use the plagiarism detection program, Turnitin.com via D2L. You will upload all your written work to the appropriate D2L dropbox, which is connected to the Turnitin.com database. **Please note that if you fail to upload a paper to D2L you will not receive credit for the assignment.**

Classroom Etiquette

- Please turn off your cell phones before coming to class. You may use your laptop to take notes, but please do not text or surf the web in class.
- Refrain from eating in class. Bringing a drink is fine.
- Arriving late or leaving during class is disruptive. Please make every effort to be on time and plan to stay for the entire class period. If you know in advance that you will have to leave early, I would appreciate it if you could let me know before class begins.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 2 – ¡Bienvenidos! – Welcome! & Historical Legacies

9/10 – Introductions & Latin American Historical Development

Reading: W&K, Chs. 1 & 2, “The Context of Latin American Politics” and “The Pattern of Historical Development”

Week 3 – Latin American Political Development

9/17 – Political Actors, the State, and Democracy in Latin America

Readings:

- 1) W&K, Chs. 3-5, “Interest Groups and Political Parties”, “Government Machinery, the Role of the State, and Public Policy” and “The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America”
- 2) Peter H. Smith and Cameron J. Sells. *Democracy in Latin America, 3rd Edition*. Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 238-255 (ending at “Gathering Strength: Indigenous Peoples”). **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Week 4 – Politics in Revolutionary Cuba

9/24 – *Readings:*

- 1) W&K, Ch. 17, pp. 335-354, ending at “The International Arena”
- 2) *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, Politics, pp. 33-37. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 3) William M. LeoGrande. “After Fidel: The Communist Party of Cuba on the Brink of Generational Change.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 59-71. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 4) Hal Klepak. “The Revolutionary Armed Forces: Loyalty and Efficiency in the Face of Old and New Challenges.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 73-82. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 5) Michelle Chase. 2018. “End of an Era?”, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 50:2, 112-114. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

9/26 – DUE: RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC PROPOSAL – Upload to D2L dropbox by midnight

Week 5 – Cuba’s Political Economy & Foreign Relations

10/1 – *Readings:*

- 1) Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda. 2018. *Latin American Politics and Development, 9th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 362-367. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Political Economy & Society

- 2) *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, Economics, pp. 117-123. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 3) Philip Peters. “Cuba’s Entrepreneurs: Foundation of a New Private Sector.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 145-152. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 4) Marguerite Rose Jimenez. “The Political Economy of Leisure.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 173-182. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 5) Conner Gorry and C. William Keck. “The Cuban Health System: In Search of Quality, Efficiency, and Sustainability.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 407-416. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 6) Katrin Hansing. “Race and Rising Inequality in Cuba.” *Current History*, February 2018. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Foreign Relations

- 7) *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, Foreign Policy, pp. 215-219. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 8) H. Michael Erisman. “Raúl Foreign Policy: A Macroperspective.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 221-229. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 9) Philip Brenner and Soraya M. Castro Marino. “Untying the Knot: The Possibility of Respectful Dialogue between Cuba and the United States.” In *A Contemporary Cuba Reader, Second Edition*, pp. 277-289. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Week 6 – Lecture on Migration & Midterm

10/8 – In lieu of regular class meeting, we will attend the guest lecture, “*The Impact of Migration on Germany and the EU*” by German Consulate General Herbert Quelle. 6-8pm, NFAC. **Attendance is mandatory.**

10/10 – DUE: ONLINE MIDTERM EXAM – Submit on D2L by midnight

Week 7 – Guatemalan Political Development

10/15 – *Readings:*

- 1) Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda. 2018. *Latin American Politics and Development, 9th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 411-414, ending at “The Transition to Civilian Rule”. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 2) Eduardo Galeano. “Memory of Fire.” In *Born in Blood and Fire: Latin American Voices*, John Charles Chasteen, ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.: 2011, pp. 210-216. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 3) Rigoberta Menchú. “I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala (1983).” In *Contemporary Latin American Social and Political Thought*, Iván Márquez, ed. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2008: pp. 32-49. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Week 8 – Democracy & Justice in Post-War Guatemala & Migration from the Northern Triangle

10/22 - *Readings:*

- 1) Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda. 2018. *Latin American Politics and Development, 9th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 415-421, ending at “Social and Economic Structure and Civil Society”. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Justice & Impunity in Guatemala

- 2) Jo-Marie Burt. 2016. “From heaven to hell in ten days: the genocide trial in Guatemala”. *Journal of Genocide Research*, 18:2-3, 143-169. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Screening: “Granito: How to Nail a Dictator” (Running time: 103 minutes)

Migration

- 3) Alexander Main. “The Central American Child Refugee Crisis: Made in U.S.A.” *Dissent*, July 30, 2014. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 4) Sonia Nazario. “Do You Care About the Rule of Law? Then Act Like It.” *New York Times*, July 11, 2018. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 5) Sonia Nazario. “There’s a Better, Cheaper Way to Handle Immigration.” *New York Times*, July 11, 2018. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 6) Roberto Suro. “We Need to Offer More Than Asylum.” *New York Times*, July 15, 2018. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

10/24 – DUE: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY - Upload to D2L Dropbox by midnight

Week 9 – Brazilian Political Development: From Oligarchy to Democracy

10/29 – *Readings:*

- 1) Britta H. Crandall. Ch. 9 “Brazil: The Politics of Elite Rule”. In Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda, *Latin American Politics and Development, 9th Edition*, 2018. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 2) Other readings TBA

Week 10 – From Progressive Country of the Future to Political Chaos: What happened to Brazil?

11/5 – Readings:

- 1) Rafael Ioris & Brian Mier (2018) In the Country of the Future, a Reversal of Fortune, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 50:2, 115-118. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 2) Omar Encarnación. “The Patriarchy’s Revenge: How Retro-Macho Politics Doomed Dilma Rousseff.” *World Policy Journal*, 34:1 (Spring 2017): 82-91. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Week 11 – New Left Populism in the Andes

11/12 – Readings:

- 1) Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade and Howard J. Wiarda. 2018. *Latin American Politics and Development, 9th Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Ch. 17 “Ecuador: Change and Continuity After Ten Years of new Left Revolution.” **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 2) Jennifer N. Collins. “New Left Experiences in Bolivia and Ecuador and the Challenge to Theories of Populism.” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 46:1 (February 2014): 59-86. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 3) Liisa L. North. “New Left Regimes in the Andes? Ecuador in Comparative Perspective”. *Studies in Political Economy*, 91:1, 2013: 113-136. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

Week 12 – Indigenous and Environmental Movements in Ecuador

11/19 – Readings:

- 1) Sara Caria and Rafael Dominguez. “Ecuador’s *Buen vivir*: A New Ideology for Development.” *Latin American Perspectives*, 43:1 (January 2016): 18-33. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 2) Matthieu Le Quang. “The Yasuní-ITT Initiative: Toward New Imaginaries.” *Latin American Perspectives*, 43:1 (January 2016): 187-199. **(D2L e-Reserves)**
- 3) Lindsay Ofrias. “Fighting Chevron in Ecuador.” *NACLA*, November 3, 2017. **(D2L e-Reserves)**

11/22-25 – Break - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Week 13 – Peer-Editing Workshops

11/25 – FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER DUE – Upload to D2L Dropbox by 5PM

11/26 – Peer-editing workshops – regular class meeting cancelled

Week 14 – Conclusions & Student Presentations

12/3 – Conclusions & Student Presentations

Readings: TBA

12/7 – DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPERS - Upload to D2L Dropbox by 5pm

Week 15 – Student Paper Presentations

12/10 – Student Paper Presentations

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20th, 5:00-7:00 PM, CCC 234