

LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer 2013

INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an undergraduate level seminar offering a broad overview of the politics of the 20 independent nations that form part of Latin America. The region is composed mostly of independent republics for close to two centuries after a colonial experience of circa three centuries. A shared cultural, social and political heritage frames a region with extraordinary geographical, ethnic and linguistic and class diversity. What political patterns, amidst the diversity can be found among the region's countries? How can the differences be explained? After identifying common and exceptional patterns of early political development, the course proceeds to analyze the contemporary political panorama of the region. The most dramatic development in the modern political history of Latin America is the emergence of sustained electoral democracy over the past twenty years in almost every country after decades of authoritarianism, instability and failed efforts to find democratic solutions. Up until the transition towards democracy through diverse paths, the course proceeds on a rather thematic scheme to construct comparative perspectives. From then on, in the second part of the course, the plan moves to a country-by-country basis. The course will cover the political development of 12 countries in south, central, and middle Latin America and in the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Cuba, DR/Haiti). An emphasis is put on democratization and its problems in each particular nation. Issues as the political position of the nations in world politics and the world economy (including topics as economic reform, globalization, migration and drug trade) and institutions, public policy and current political tension will be part of the analysis and discussion.

Basic Texts:

Latin American Politics and Development (sixth edition), Howard Wiarda and Harvey F. Kline (eds.) Westview Press, July 2006. ISBN: 0-8133-4327-5

Modern Latin America Seventh Edition by Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith and James N. Green, (2010) Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780195375701

Understanding Contemporary Latin America by Richard S. Hillman & Thomas J. D. Angostino (Eds), L. Rienner Publishers; 4th edition (2011) ISBN: 9781588267917

Democracy in Latin America: Patterns and Cycles, by Roderic Ai Camp, ed. Jaguar Books on Latin America #10 Wilmington: Scholarly Books, 1996. ISBN: 0-8420-2512-X

Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective by Peter H Smith, Second Edition, Oxford University Press 2012

Matthew Restall, Seven myths of the Spanish conquest, Oxford University Press US, 2003, ISBN 0195160770, 9780195160772

Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America by Jorge I. Domínguez and Michael Schifter (eds.) Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-8018-7120-4

Open Veins of Latin America, Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent, 25th Anniversary Edition, By Eduardo Galeana, Translated by Cedric Belfrage ISBN-10: 0-85345-991-6 (pbk), ISBN-13: 978-0-85345-991-0 (pbk), January 1973

Grading:

Each student will be expected to write a seminar paper on a specific problem/challenge for further democratization or democratic consolidation present in one of the region's countries. In class participation and two written assignments (a written summary of one of the readings assigned for the class dealing with each student's country of interest and one book review) will also be part of the final grade. For the book review students may choose to read Professor Restall's book on the Spanish Conquest or Eduardo Galeana's book on the region's insertion into the world's economy.

PART I: COMMON AND EXCEPTIONAL PATTERNS OF EARLY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Session I Introduction and the Colonial Legacy (1492-1880)

Readings:

Hillman & D'Angostino (Chapters 2, y 3 pages 13-66), and
Matthew Restall, Seven myths of the Spanish conquest, Oxford
University Press US, 2003, ISBN 0195160770, 9780195160772

Session II Latin American Politics (1880-1980)

Readings: Hillman & D' Angostino (Chapter 4 pages 67-110) and/or
Wiarda and Kline: "The context of LA Politics & The Pattern of
Political Development" (pages 1-32)
Optional: Camp (Cap II, 67-90)

Session III Economic Transformations (1880-1990)

Readings: Hillman & D' Angostino Chapter 6 (pages 139-184) and

Open Veins of Latin America, Five Centuries of the Pillage of a
Continent, 25th Anniversary Edition, By Eduardo Galeana, Translated
by Cedric Belfrage ISBN-10: 0-85345-991-6 (pbk), ISBN-13: 978-0-
85345-991-0 (pbk), January 1973,
and Camp chapter 5 (pages 91-120)

and optional on LA's response to the economic crisis of the 80's:
Camp (Chapter IV, Remmer pages 269-290).

Session IV Latin America, The US and the World

Readings: Hillman & D'Angostino Chapter 7 pages 185-222

and optional: Smith Chapter 4 (pages 106-133)

**PART II: THE TREND TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION AND
DEMOCRACY'S PROBLEMS TODAY**

Session V The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America

Readings: Smith Chapter 1 (pages 19-42) and
Camp (Chapter II, pages 21-46).

Session VI The Political Systems of South America

Readings: Wiarda and Kline (Readings on Argentina, Brazil and Chile, pages
95-198)
Skidmore, Smith & Green (Chapters 9, 10 and 11 pages 244-348
Optional: Domínguez and Schifter 244-265, 269-291, 292-320
Optional: Günther Schönleitner, "Between liberal and participatory
democracy: Tensions and Dilemmas of Leftist Politics in Brazil". *Journal of
Latin American Studies*, Vol 38: part 1: February 2006

Session VII The Political Systems of South America

Readings: Wiarda and Kline (Readings on Colombia, Perú and Venezuela,
(pages 199 - 304)
Skidmore, Smith & Green (Chapters 6,7 and 8 pages 150-243)
Optional: Domínguez and Schifter 193-219, 220-243, 165-192

Session VIII The Political Systems of Central and Middle America

Readings: Wiarda and Kline (Readings on México, Guatemala and Costa Rica,
pages 385-402, 504-518 y 450-463)
Skidmore, Smith and Green(Chapter 3 pages 45) -Optional:
Domínguez and Schifter 321-350

Session IX The Political Systems of the Caribbean

Readings: Wiarda and Kline (Readings on Cuba, República Dominicana and
Haití, pages 403-449, 534-549, 565-580)
Skidmore, Smith and Green (Chapter 4 pages 111-116 and Chapter 5
pages 121-149

Latin America 2060: Consolidation or Crisis?, The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future Boston University 2011

* Final paper due on September __ via email (silvia.inclan@gmail.com)

List of topic suggestions for final papers:

Country of interest	Topic 1	Topic 2
Brazil	<i>Transition and Consolidation</i>	<i>Comparing Cardoso to Lula</i>
Mexico	<i>The old one-party dominant regime becomes a democracy</i>	<i>Delayed progress in a functioning democracy</i>
Argentina	<i>Dealing with the military past and democratization</i>	<i>Recovering from Economic Crisis</i>
Colombia	<i>The state, rebels and drugtraffickers</i>	<i>Effects of the fight against insurgency</i>
Peru	<i>Democratic expectations, Fujimori's coming and leaving</i>	<i>The effects of Fujimori's rule over societal preferences for democracy</i>
Venezuela	<i>Chavez's Democratic credentials. Public support and inclusiveness</i>	<i>Chavez, caudillo or would be Castro?</i>
Chile	<i>Return to democracy</i>	<i>A slow re-democratization process.</i>
Central America	<i>Falling behind with democratization?</i>	<i>Consolidating democratic gains</i>
Cuba	<i>Development and revolution after the cold war.</i>	<i>Democratic prospects and political life after Castro</i>
Dominican Republic	<i>Democracy and development</i>	
Haiti	<i>Governance before and today</i>	
Guatemala	<i>Democracy and incorporation</i>	