

Political Science 407E
Politics in Latin America
Fall 2006

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Office Hours: T/Th 1-2:20.

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to politics in Latin America. The first part of the course examines the recent pattern of democratization in the region. The second part of the course provides an in-depth, comparative study of politics in selected countries, with a focus on Mexico, Cuba, and Argentina.

Requirements

Lecture and Discussion: The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5:15 in Wright Hall C235 for lectures and discussion. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for group discussion. Participation counts for 5% of the final grade.

Exams, Papers, and Grading: The first exam will be given **October 5**. The final exam is on **December 12, 6-8PM** in Wright Hall C237. In addition, students are required to write a short research paper (10-12 pp.). The paper is due on **November 28**. Exam 1 is worth 25% of the final grade, while the research paper and the final exam each count for 35% of the final grade.

Make-up exams will be given only if the student can demonstrate she/he was absent due to illness or participation in an official university function. Students must provide an excuse in writing from a licensed health care provider or from a university administrator.

University Policy for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Disability Resource Center (Room 137, Reynolds Student Services Center; 895-0866 [TDD 895-0652]).

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who miss class due to observance of a religious holiday shall be given the opportunity to make up the missed work. Please notify the instructor no later than the end of the first week of classes if this policy applies to you.

Texts

The required readings for the course are:

Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost, eds. Politics of Latin America: The Power Game (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Peter H. Smith. Democracy in Latin America (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)

In addition, some of the required readings for this course are on reserve in the Lied library and are accessible through the web at <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/>. E-research readings are designated "E-Reserves" in the syllabus. Some readings are also available through the JSTOR and Academic Search Elite databases in the University library (Article First and JSTOR are located at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/eralpha.php>). These readings are marked with "JSTOR" or "Academic Search Elite" in the syllabus. I will give instructions in class on accessing readings from the library.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND LECTURES

8/29-8/31 Introduction

Vanden & Prevost (hereafter V&P), "An Introduction to Latin America..." pp. 1-40.

9/5-9/7 Conceptualizing Political Regime Types in Latin America

Smith, pp. 1-43.

Sørensen, "What is Democracy?" in E-Reserves.

9/12-9/19 Explanations of Democratization in Latin America: Towards Eclecticism?

Smith, pp. 44-72, 107-133.

9/21-10/3 Problems of New Democracies in Latin America

Smith, pp. 73-106, 213-310.

V&P, "The Political Economy of Latin America," pp. 146-76.

Roberto Patricio Korzeniewisck and William C. Smith, "Poverty, Inequality, and Growth in Latin America: Searching for the High Road to Globalization," Latin American Research Review 35, no. 3), 2000, pp. 7-54, in Article First database (search for author "Korzeniewisck, Roberto Patricio")

10/5 **Exam 1**

10/10-10/12 Mexico: History and Political Culture

V&P, "Mexico," pp. 54, 285-301

10/17-10/19 Mexico: Political Parties and Interest Groups

V&P, "Mexico," pp. 301-5

Camp, "Groups and the State..." pp. 128-57, in E-Reserves.

10/24-10/26 Mexico: Political and Economic Reform

V&P, "Mexico," pp. 305-23

Geri Smith and Cristina Lindblad, "Mexico: Was NAFTA Worth It?" Business Week, Issue 3863, December 22, 2003, in **Article First database** (search as author "Smith, Geri")

BBC News, "Siege Warning to Mexican Rival,"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/4797113.stm>

10/31-11/2 Cuba: History and Political Culture

V&P, "Cuba" pp. 325-338

11/7-11/9 Cuba: Interest Groups and the Cuban Communist Party

V&P, "Cuba" pp. 339-344

11/14-11/16 Cuba: Economic Reforms
V&P, "Cuba" pp. 344-53
Javier Corrales, "The Gatekeeper State: Limited Economic Reforms and Regime Survival in Cuba: 1989-2002," Latin American Research Review 39, no. 2 (2004), pp. 35-58, in **Article First database** (search as author "Corrales, Javier").

11/21 Argentina: History and Political Culture
V&P, "Argentina." Pp. 399-418

11/23 Thanksgiving holiday

11/28-11/30 Argentina: Parties and Interest Groups
V&P, "Argentina," pp. 418-431

12/5-12/7 Argentina: Political and Economic Reforms
V&P, "Argentina," pp. 431-432
Economist, "Becoming a Serious Country," June 25, 2004, in **Article First database**
Film, "The Empty ATM"

12/12 Final Exam, 6-8PM, Wright Hall C235

http://slts1.studentlife.unlv.edu/apps/Academic_Calendar/FinalsSched.asp?T=3&AY=2006

Appendix
RESEARCH RESOURCES

As you begin doing research for your papers, you may want to consult the following journals, reports, and web pages:

1. Journals.

Hispanic American Historical Review	Journal of Latin American Studies
Latin American Report	Comparative Politics
Latin American Research Review	Comparative Political Studies
Latin American Perspectives	Latin American Politics and Society
Politics and Society	Studies in Comparative International Development
Journal of Developing Areas	Economic Development and Cultural Change
World Politics	Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos
Latin American and Caribbean Contemporary Record	

2. Web Resources.

Inter-American Development Bank: <http://www.iadb.org>
Organization of American States: <http://www.oas.org>
World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org>
Political Database of the America: <http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/html>
WWW Virtual Library, Latin American Studies: <http://lanic.utexas.edu/las.html>