

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT 380:

LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

FALL 2019

University of Puget Sound

Tues, Thurs 9:30-10:50

Wyatt Hall 311

Professor Natasha Bennett

Email: nbennett@pugetsound.edu

Office Hours: Tues/ Thurs 11 AM to 1 PM, and by appointment

Office: Wyatt 330

SUMMARY OF THE COURSE

This course in Latin American Politics examines the historical and contemporary dynamics of political change in the region with a particular focus on how these dynamics affect and are driven by socio-economic inequality. In this way, the course raises the following questions:

- "What are the historical and contemporary factors that undermine or validate different flavors of democracy and authoritarianism in Latin America?"
- "How can we assess the quality of democracy across Latin America?"
- "How has social and economic inequality influenced the norms and ideas that have shaped reform, revolution, and backlash in the 20th Century across the region?"
- "What are the main characteristics of US-Latin American relations?"

In answering these questions, this course includes the following sub-themes 1) democracy and authoritarianism across the region 2) economic structures and development 3) civil society and social movements and 4) Latin America in a globalizing world.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will:

- have been exposed to and considered the various manifestations of democratic politics across Latin America.
- Additionally, they will consider how to evaluate the nature of democracy and authoritarianism in Latin America
- and be familiar with the economic and social factors that influence Latin American political systems and institutions.
- Students will also be able to use the comparative method to evaluate political differences and similarities across Latin American states,
- and improve their reading, writing, and presentation skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

This course requires you to purchase (or rent) the following textbook:

1. Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at Last? 2nd ed. by David C Hellinger
 - a. Hereby abbreviated as *CPLA*

Any additional readings will be provided to you via this course's Canvas site.

GENERAL CONVENTIONS:

1. Please feel free to call me Natasha
2. I will be holding office hours regularly, so please be sure to stop by office hours first. Most questions and concerns are best discussed in person.
 - a. If office hours don't work for you, email me or talk to me to schedule an appointment. I am widely available for students, but please be mindful that I commute from north of Seattle so I may be unable to accommodate last-minute requests.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

GRADE BREAKDOWN AND IMPORTANT DATES

Attendance and Participation	10%	
Map and Politics Quiz	5%	9/19
Reading Reflections	15%	Fridays @ 11:59 PM
Take-Home Midterm Exam	20%	10/15 @ 9:30 AM- 10/17 @ 9:30 AM
Comparative Country Project	20%	11/26 @ 9:30 AM
Comparative Country Project Presentation	10%	12/12 in class
In-Class Final Exam	20%	12/17 8:00-10:00 AM

1. Attendance and Participation are required for this course. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. Because I recognize that life happens, you get **3 free absences** to use as you please. You do not need to give me advanced notice of your absence, and I do not require any documentation. This policy is flexible enough to accommodate any of the reasons you might miss class: sick days, cramming, travel plans, mental health days, etc. While you are free to use them however you might like, I would encourage you to **save them for when you genuinely need them**. Also be sure that you are not absent for important course dates (such as the day of the map quiz or the day you're scheduled to present, for example).

*Any additional absences after your first three will affect your overall course grade.

2. Map and Politics Quiz: On **September 19th**, you will receive a blank map of Latin America. You will be required to fill in the country names, list the capitals and the current head of state. This quiz is worth 5% of your grade, and I will not administer make-up quizzes.
3. Reading Reflections: At the end of each week, you will be asked to upload a short reading reflection paper (1-2 pages) to help you digest the readings for that week. The format of the paper is as follows:
 1. Summarize each text in **NO MORE THAN ONE PARAGRAPH**. This format forces you to identify the central argument/ component of each reading and

concisely summarize the information. These paragraphs will also come in handy to help you organize your notes and study for exams.

2. Answer one or more of the following prompts in **NO MORE THAN THREE PARAGRAPHS** to any reading(s) of your choice:
 - What did you find surprising?
 - How does what you read this week connect with what you already knew?
 - How useful is this information for your contemporary understanding of Latin America?
 - Do these readings have a common theme(s)? If so, what is it (are they) and how are they discussed?

***These reflections are due on Fridays no later than 11:59 PM on Canvas**

4. Take-Home Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be a take-home essay exam. You will be asked to respond to three out of four prompts in essay formats. You will have **48 hours to complete the exam**. The midterm will become available at 5 PM on Monday OCT 16, and the essays will be due on **Wednesday, Oct 18 at 5 PM**- uploaded via Canvas. (We will not have class on Wed. Oct 18).
5. Final Exam: The final exam for this course will be an in-class blue book style exam. While it is cumulative, it will emphasize material from the second half of the course. It will consist of a combination of identifications, short answer, and essay questions.
6. Comparative country project: The central assignment in this course is a research project that will require you to analyze some aspect of domestic political institutions, political economy, social movements/ civil society, foreign policy, or any other topic of interest among two or more Latin American countries. Be sure to attend the class after the midterm when we will dedicate the entire class to discussing the details and instructions of this project.
 - a. Comparative country project presentation: Because writing a research paper is a different beast than presenting it, you will be asked to present your research paper on the last day of the course. In the class session immediately following the midterm, I will provide guidelines for the presentation.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Submission policy: All submission dates and times for the papers and exams are binding. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that any papers/ assignments/ exams uploaded to Canvas can be opened. If I cannot download and open your file, I cannot grade it.

- I prefer Microsoft Word document formats. If you use different software such as Pages, please convert the file.
- To avoid losing work due to computer/ technical difficulties, consider using a cloud-based service (such as Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud, for your notes and assignments)

Tardiness: If you are late, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to ensure that I have marked you down as present in the attendance sheet. Approach me at the end of the class to do so.

COURSE SCHEDULE

FOUNDATIONS

Week 1: Latin America: intro the region

Tuesday, Sept 3

Readings:

1. Monkey Cage- "Democracy in Latin America is in Crisis"

Thursday, Sept 5

Readings:

1. CPLA Introduction
2. CPLA Chapter 2- "The Few, the Many, Inequality in Latin American Politics"

Week 2: Historical Foundations

Tuesday, Sept 10

Readings:

1. CPLA Chapter 3- "Democratic and Autocratic Threads before Columbus and in Colonial Latin America"
2. CPLA Chapter 4- "Political without Economic Independence"
3. Galeano, Eduardo. "Lust for Gold, Lust for Silver" in *Open Veins of Latin America* (p. 11-22)

Thursday, Sept 12

Readings:

1. CPLA Chapter 5- "Populism, Development, and Democracy in the Twentieth Century"
2. CPLA Chapter 6- "Development and Dependency: Theory and Practice in Latin America"
3. Galeano, Eduardo. "The invisible sources of power" in *Open Veins of Latin America* (p. 134-152)

DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM

Week 3: Conceptions of Democracy (theory)

Tuesday, Sept 17

Readings:

1. CPLA Chapter 1- "Conceptions of the Democracy"
2. Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics ("RHLAP" from now on) Ch. 1- "The Origins and Dura"

Thursday, Sept 19- political institutions

Readings:

1. RHLAP Chapter 2- Presidentialism
2. RHLAP Chapter 7- Informal Institutions

Map and Politics Quiz

Week 4: Breakdown of Democracy in 20th Century LA (part 1- military coups)

Tuesday, Sept 24

Readings:

1. CPLA Chapter 7: Democratic Breakdown and Military Rule
2. Salvador Allende, "Final Speech" (1973)
3. Augusto Pinochet, "Military Decrees on Seizing Power" (1973)

Thursday, Sept 26- CASE STUDY: ARGENTINA

Readings:

1. Modern Latin America- chapter 9- Argentina
2. Diamint, Ruth. "Truth, justice and declassification: Secret archives show US helped Argentine military wage 'dirty war' that killed 30,000"
3. Londoño, Ernesto. "Declassified US Documents Reveal Details About Argentina's Dictatorship." *New York Times*, Apr 12, 2019.

Week 5: Breakdown of Democracy in 20th Century LA (part 2-violence and corruption)

Tuesday, Oct 1 (violence)

Readings:

1. Selections from Greg Grandin's *Last Colonial Massacre*
2. Jenny Pearce (2010) Perverse state formation and securitized democracy in Latin America, *Democratization*, 17:2, 286-306.

Thursday, Oct 3 (Corruption)- NACLA readings

Readings:

1. Seligson, Mitchell A. "The Impact of Corruption on Regime Legitimacy: A Comparative Study of Four Latin American Countries" *Journal of Politics* 64:2 May 2002.
2. Benjamin Fogel (2019) Brazil: Corruption as a Mode of Rule, NACLA Report on the Americas, 51:2, 153-158
3. Andre Pagliarini (2019) Bolsonaro's Bad Education, NACLA Report on the Americas, 51:2, 123-126
4. César R. Nureña & Federico Helfgott (2019) Rings of Corruption in Peru, NACLA Report on the Americas, 51:2, 167-173.

Week 6: Breakdown of Democracy in the 20th Century (part 3- populism and backsliding)

Tuesday, Oct 8

Readings:

1. CPLA- Chapter 9- Transitions from Party-Dominant Regimes: Mexico and Venezuela
2. Joshua Frens-String & Alejandro Velasco (2016) Right Turn, *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 48:4, 301-302,

Thursday, Oct 10 CASE STUDY: VENEZUELA

Readings:

1. Richard Gott, "Hugo Chavez and the Bolivarian Revolution, 2000" in *Sources for Latin America in the Modern World*. Pp 355- 357
2. Matthias vom Hau, Jared A. Abbot, Hillel David Soifer, "Inculcating Populist Nationalism? Education and Ideological Change in Venezuela" in *Populist Nationalism in Europe and the Americas*. Eds Fernando Lopez Alves and Diane Johnson. New York: Routledge, 2018
3. Juan Guaido, "Maduro is a usurper. It's time to restore democracy in Venezuela" Op-ed *The Washington Post*. January 15, 2019.
4. Buxton, Julia. "The Missteps of Venezuela's Opposition—Again" (2019) *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 51: 2, 130-133).

Week 7: Midterm

Tuesday, Oct 15- MIDTERM (no class)

Midterm prompts available on Canvas at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, Oct 15th

Thursday, Oct 17- GUIDELINES FOR COMPARATIVE COUNTRY PROJECT

Midterm due on Canvas at 9:30 AM on Thursday, Oct 17th

POLITICAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Week 8: Development, Dependency, Neoliberalism

Tuesday, Oct 22- FALL BREAK (no class)

Thursday, Oct 24- Development, Dependency, and Neoliberalism

Readings:

1. Naím, Moisés. 2000. Washington Consensus or Washington Confusion? *Foreign Policy* (118): 87-103.
2. RHLAP Chapter 9- "Neoliberalism and its Alternatives" by Javier Corrales

Week 9: State Capacity and Social Policy

Tuesday, Oct 29- State Capacity and Natural Resources

Readings

1. Anthony Bebbington, "Extractive Industries, Socio-Environmental Conflicts and Political Economic Transformations in Andean America," in *Social Conflict, Economic Development and Extractive Industry*, ed Bebbington, Anthony. p 3-26 (Routledge 2012).
2. Grassi, Davide and Vincenzo Memoli. "Political Determinant of State Capacity in Latin America" *World Development*, 88. **Read pages 94-96, 101-103**

Thursday, Oct 31- Social Policy and Natural Resources

Readings:

1. RHLAP Chapter 13- "Social Policies in Latin America"
2. Gray Molina, George. "The Challenge of Progressive Change under Evo Morales" in *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings*, eds Weyland, Kurt, Raul L. Madrid, and Wendy Hunter. (Cambridge University Press 2010).

CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

Week 10: Parties and Social Class

Tuesday, Nov 5- Parties and the Media

Readings:

1. CPLA Chapter 12- Parties, Media, and the Left-Right Dimension
In-class film: Oliver Stone, *South of the Border* (2010)

Thursday, Nov 7- Social Class/ Social Movements

Readings:

1. CPLA- Chapter 11- "Social Class and Social Movements in Latin America"
2. de la Rocha, Mercedes. "Vanishing Assets: Cumulative Disadvantages Among the Urban Poor" in *Out of the Shadows: Political Action and the Informal Economic of Latin America*, eds. Fernandez-Kelly, Patricia and Jon Shefner, p: 97-124.
3. Ramirez Saiz, Juan Manuel. "Informal Politics in the Mexican Democratic Transition: The Case of the People's Urban Movement" in *Out of the Shadows: Political Action and the Informal Economic of Latin America*, eds. Fernandez-Kelly, Patricia and Jon Shefner, p: 219-241.

Week 11: Human Rights

Tuesday, Nov 12- Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Readings:

1. CPLA- Chapter 14- Human Rights, Corruption, and the Rule of Law
2. RHLAP Chapter 10: "Human Rights and Military Abuses"

Thursday, Nov 14- Women's Rights in Latin America

Readings:

1. Fuentes, Angelica. "The Link Between Corruption and Gender Inequality: A Heavy Burden for Development and Democracy" *Wilson Center*.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/the-link-between-corruption-and-gender-inequality-heavy-burden-for-development-and>
2. Friedman, Elizabeth Jay. 2009. "Regionalizing Women's Human Rights in Latin America" in *Politics & Gender*. Vol 5, Issue 3: 349-375.
3. Kennedy, Merrit. "Salvadoran Woman who Lost Her Pregnancy is Acquitted of Homicide in Retrial" *National Public Radio*.
<https://www.npr.org/2019/08/20/752731596/el-salvador-woman-who-lost-her-pregnancy-is-acquitted-of-homicide-in-retrial>

Week 12: Indigenous Rights & Politics

Tuesday, Nov 19- Citizenship and Representation

Readings:

1. Yashar, Deborah J. 1998. Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements and Democracy in Latin America. *Comparative Politics* 31(1): 23-42.
2. Rice, Roberta. 2017. "Indigenous Political Representation in Latin America"

Thursday, Nov 21- Globalization and Indigenous Rights

Readings:

1. Gomez Isa, Felipe. "Indigenous peoples: from object of protection to subject of rights" in *Expanding Human Rights*. Eds Brysk, Alison and Michael Stohl. 2017
2. Wright, Claire. "Expanding extractive industries, contracting indigenous rights?" by Claire Wright in *Contracting Human Rights*. Eds. Brysk, Alison and Michael Stohl. 2018.

Week 13: Beyond Culture

Tuesday, Nov 26- Beyond Culture: Indigenous belonging and material well-being

No reading.

****Comparative Project Due****

Thursday, Nov 28- THANKSGIVING (no class)

LATIN AMERICA IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Week 14: US-Latin American Relations

Tuesday, Dec 3-U.S. Latin American Relations broadly

Readings:

1. CPLA- Chapter 16 “No One’s Backyard Anymore”
2. Farthing et al. “A New Agenda in U.S.-Latin American Relations” *NACLA Report on the Americas*. 48:4, 319-327

Thursday, Dec 5- Politics of latinx immigration

Readings:

1. Chapters 3-5 in Sampaio, Anna *Terrorizing Latina/o Immigrants*.
2. “What do Donald Trump’s immigration raids accomplish?” *The Economist*, 21 Aug 2019.
3. Wilkinson, Tracy and Noah Bierman, “U.S. and Mexico strike a deal on migration, staving off Trump’s tariff plan” *Los Angeles Times*, 7 June 2019
<https://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pol-us-mexico-tariffs-immigration-talks-20190607-story.html>

Week 15: Wrapping Up

Tuesday, Dec 10- The future of Latin America and concluding thoughts

Readings: TBD

Thursday, Dec 12- Class presentations of comparative project

No readings: catch-up

FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 17 8AM-10AM