International Relations 365:  
Politics and Democracy in Latin America  
Fall 2014

When: M & W 3:30-4:50 p.m.  
Where: VKC 150  
Office Hours: M 2:00-3:20 p.m.  
or by appointment  
Professor Gerardo Munck  
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1. Course Description
   The course focuses on Latin America’s experience with democracy and seeks to offer: 1) a survey of the region’s experience with democracy, 2) a detailed discussion of the trends in Latin American politics over the past 30 years, and 3) a discussion of the challenges Latin America has still not managed to tackle successfully.

   The course will seek to meet these objectives by offering both broad overviews of the region and in-depth analyses of a set of countries. The selected countries are those that are economically dominant in the region (Brazil and Mexico) and that exemplify certain common patterns or notable alternatives (Argentina, Chile, and Cuba); a briefer discussion will be offered of the Andean Region, a region with some distinctive trends in recent times. Though an emphasize will be placed on events in these countries since the 1980s, the historical context of recent developments and external influences (in particular, the role of the United States) will also be considered.

2. Requirements
   The basic requirements include six quizzes (30% of the overall grade), an in-class mid-term exam (35%), and an in-class final exam (35%). With regard to the quizzes, I have included provisional dates in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class. Of the six quizzes, I will drop the lowest one and thus compute grades on the basis of your best five quizzes.

3. Readings
   We will use one book, which is available at the university bookstore: Thomas Skidmore, Peter Smith and James Green, Modern Latin America 8th. edition (Oxford University Press, 2013).
Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

I. Meetings # 1, 2, 3 & 4 (8/25, 8/27, 9/3, 9/8). Issues and Trends
   - Quiz # 1 (9/10)

   *** Labor Day: No class on Monday, September 1 ***

II. Meetings # 5, 6, 7 & 8 (9/10, 9/15, 9/17, 9/22). Argentina
   - Quiz # 2 (9/24)

III. Meetings # 9, 10, 11 & 12 (9/24, 9/29, 10/1, 10/6). Chile
   - Quiz # 3 (10/8)

IV. Meetings # 13, 14 & 15 (10/8, 10/13, 10/15). Brazil

Meeting # 16 (10/20). Mid-Term

V. Meetings # 17, 18, 19 & 20 (10/22, 10/27, 10/29, 11/3). Mexico
   - Quiz # 4 (11/5)

VI. Meetings # 21, 22 & 23 (11/5, 11/10, 11/12). Cuba
   - Quiz # 5 (11/17)

VII. Meetings # 24, 25 & 26 (11/17, 11/19, 11/24). The Andean Region (Colombia and Venezuela)
   - Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapters 6, 7 and 8.
   - Quiz # 6 (12/1)

   *** Thanksgiving Break: November 26-28 ***

VIII. Meetings # 27 & 28 (12/1, 12/3). The United States and Latin America

   *** Final Exam: Monday, December 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m ***