

International Relations 365: Politics and Democracy in Latin America

Spring 2017

When: M & W 2:00-3:20 p.m.
Where: VKC 150
Office Hours: M 3:30-4:50 p.m.
or by appointment

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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 and other types of political regime, 2) a detailed discussion of the trends in Latin American politics over the past 30 years, and 3) a sense 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 (Argentina, Chile) or notable alternatives (Cuba and Venezuela). Though an emphasis will be placed on events in these countries since the 1970s, the historical context of recent developments and external influences (in particular, the role of the United States) will also be considered.

Requirements

The basic requirements include five *quizzes* (25% of the overall grade), an in-class *mid-term exam* (35%), and an in-class *final exam* (40%).

With regard to the quizzes, we will have six quizzes and I will drop the lowest one. I have included provisional dates below in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class.

The dates of the mid-term and final exams are also noted below in the syllabus.

If the schedule of a quiz or in-class exam conflicts with a religious holy day, please let me know and I will arrange for you to take it some other time.

Readings and Class Power Points

All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under "Readings." Below you will see which reading we will discuss and you are responsible for reading for each meeting of the class.

In addition, I will be introducing additional information, especially on most recent developments, in class. The power points of each class will be uploaded to the Blackboard after each class—you will find them under "Power Points"—and you are responsible for mastering the information in these power points that go beyond the readings.

Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Meeting # 1 (1/9). Introduction

I. Issues and Trends in Latin America

Meeting # 2 (1/11). The Pre-History and Origins of Countries

“The Colonial Foundations (1492-1880s),” pp. 13-41, in Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* (2005).

Meeting # 3 (1/16). Martin Luther King’s Birthday: No class

Meeting # 4 (1/18). Models of Economic Development

“Strategies for Economic Development,” pp. 351-75, in Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America* (2010).

Meeting # 5 (1/23). Political Regimes and Democracy

“Dynamics of Political Transformation,” pp. 376-93, in Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America* (2010).

Meeting # 6 (1/25). The Role of the United States

“The Two Americas: United States–Latin American Relations,” pp. 559-92, in Keen and Haynes, *A History of Latin America*, Vol. 2 (2009).

• Quiz # 1 (1/30)

II. The Southern Cone

Meetings # 7, 8, 9 & 10 (1/30, 2/1, 2/6, 2/8). Argentina: Early Democracy, Populism, Harsh Military Authoritarianism, and Unstable Democracy

“Argentina: Prosperity, Deadlock, and Change,” pp. 69–108, in Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* (2005).

• Quiz # 2 (2/13)

Meetings # 11, 12, 14 & 15 (2/13, 2/15, 2/22, 2/27). Chile: Early Democracy, Socialism, Harsh Military Authoritarianism, and Stable Democracy

“Chile: Democracy in a Divided Polity,” pp. 299–324, Teichman, in Isbester (ed.), *The Paradox of Democracy in Latin America* (2011).

Meeting # 13 (2/20). Presidents’ Day: No Class

Meeting # 16 (3/1). Mid-Term and Quiz # 3

III. The Two Regional Powers

Meetings # 17, 18 & 19 (3/6, 3/8, 3/20). Brazil: Late Democracy, Military Electoral Authoritarianism, and Democracy with Flaws

“Brazil: Development For Whom?”, pp. 139-80, in Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* (2005).

“Democracy and Economy from Bust to Boom,” pp. 20-46, in Montero, *Brazil: Reversal of Fortune* (2014).

- **Quiz # 4** (3/23)

*** Spring Recess: March 13-17 ***

Meetings # 20, 21, 22 & 23 (3/22, 3/27, 3/29, 4/3). Mexico: Revolution, Civilian Electoral Authoritarianism, and Violent Democracy

“Mexico: The Taming of a Revolution,” pp. 139-80, in Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* (2005).

“Mexico’s Security Upheaval,” pp. 3-17, by Paul Rexton Kan, in Rosen and Kassab (eds.), *Fragile States in the Americas* (2017).

- **Quiz # 5** (4/5)

IV. Socialism in the Caribbean

Meetings # 24, 25 & 26 (4/5, 4/10, 4/12). Cuba: Late Independence, Revolution and Cold War Socialism

“Cuba since 1959,” pp. 95-148, Dominguez, in Bethell (ed.), *Cuba: A Short History* (1993).

“Cuba Opens a Door to the World. The United States Engages,” pp. 1-19, Feinberg, *Open for Business: Building The New Cuban Economy* (2016).

Meetings # 27, 28 & 29 (4/17, 4/19, 4/24). Venezuela: Stable Democracy, Electoral Upheaval, and Post-Cold War Socialism

“Venezuela: Pacts, Populism, and Poverty,” pp. 229-49, by Rice, in Isbester (ed.), *The Paradox of Democracy in Latin America* (2011).

“Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations,” Sullivan, 2016. Read only the sections on “Political Background,” p. 4 and “Current Political and Economic Environment,” from page 4 up to the top of page 26.

- **Quiz # 6** (4/26)

V. Conclusions

Meeting # 30 (4/26): A Recapitulation

*** **Final Exam: Monday, May 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (same classroom)** ***

Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>.

This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.