

International Relations 466:
Contemporary Issues in Latin American Politics

Spring 2013

When: M & W 2:00-3:20 p.m.
Where: VKC 209
Office Hours: M 3:30-4:50 p.m.

Professor Gerardo Munck
E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office: VKC 326A

1. Course Description

The course focuses on current politics in Latin America. We will first consider the background to current politics in the region, recent electoral trends and the new regional democratic agenda. Then we will sequentially address a range of themes: electoral democracy; the political inclusion of women, afro-descendants and indigenous peoples; violence and human rights; and economic inequality and poverty. The discussion will touch on most of the countries in Latin America and we will analyze current issues and trends, and also consider possible responses to the problems we identify.

2. Requirements

The basic requirements include six quizzes (20% of the overall grade), a 15-page research paper (20%), an in-class mid-term (30%), and an in-class final exam (30%). Class participation is also an essential part of the course.

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.

With regard to your research papers, you are supposed to define your own topic of study. The only requirement concerning topic selection is that it must be related to the issues discussed in the course and that it must be based largely upon scholarly literature, that is, academic books, articles in professional journals, etc. A brief description of your topic, on a sheet of paper or by email, is due on March 27. The completed paper is due the last day of class (May 1).

3. Readings

All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under "Course Content." Some of the electronic files include sections that do not need to be read. The specific page numbers you need to read are clearly indicated below.

Course Outline, Readings and Assignments

Meeting 1 (1/14): Introduction

1. Background, the Current Political Scenario, and the New Democracy Agenda

Meetings 2, 3 & 4 (1/16, 1/23, 1/28): Background: Transitions to Democracy and Neoliberalism in the 1980s and 1990s

Smith, Peter, *Cycles of Electoral Democracy in Latin America, 1900-2000* (Berkeley: Center for Latin American Studies, 2004). 37 pgs.

*** Martin Luther King's Birthday: No class on Monday, January 21 ***

Reid, Michael, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul* (New Haven, CT.: Yale University Press, 2007). Read only pp. 118-20 (the section on "The rise and indebted fall of statist protectionism") and pp. 132-47 (the sections on "A paradigm shift," "Debt and the battle for stability," "Tearing down barriers" and "Public vices, private passions").

-Quiz # 1 (1/30)

Meetings 5, 6, 7 & 8 (1/30, 2/4, 2/6, 2/11): The Current Political Scenario: Who Governs? What do the Governors Stand For?

Sullivan, Mark P., *Latin America and the Caribbean: Fact Sheet on Leaders and Elections*, September 17, 2012. 2 pgs.

Castañeda, Jorge G. and Marco A. Morales, "The Emergence of a New Left," pp. 64-77, in Andrew Cooper and Jorge Heine (eds.), *Which Way Latin America? Hemispheric Politics Meets Globalization* (New York: United Nations University Press, 2009). Read only page 64 through the first paragraph of page 69.

Navia, Patricio and Ignacio Walker, "Political Institutions, Populism, and Democracy in Latin America," pp 245-65, in Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully (eds.), *Democratic Governance in Latin America* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010). Read only pp. 256-63 (the sections on "The neoliberal economic reforms of the nineties and their outcome" and "Populist and non-populist responses", and pay attention to Figure 7.1 on p. 262).

Cameron, Maxwell A., "Latin America's Left Turns: Beyond Good and Bad," *Third World Quarterly* Vol. 30, N° 2 (2009): 331-48.

Levitsky, Steven and Kenneth M. Roberts, "Latin America's "Left Turn": A Framework for Analysis," pp. 1-28, in Levitsky and Roberts (eds.), *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.). Read only pp. 1-26.

-Quiz # 2 (2/11)

Meeting 9 (2/13): The New Hemispheric Agenda to Promote and Defend Democracy: The OAS and Inter-American Democratic Charter

Meyer, Peter J., "Organization of American States: Background and Issues for Congress," July 31, 2012. Read only "Summary", pages 3-4 ("History and Purpose"), and page 7 until the top of page 15 ("Current Priorities").

OAS, *Inter-American Democratic Charter*. (Adopted by the General Assembly at its special session held in Lima, Peru, on September 11, 2001). 20 pgs.

Insulza, José Miguel, "Message from the Organization of American States Secretary General," *Latin American Policy* Vol. 3, N° 1 (2012): 13-17.

*** Presidents' Day: No class on Monday, February 18 ***

2. Political Rights I: Electoral Democracy

Meetings 10 & 11 (2/20, 2/25): Electing Representatives

Lean, Sharon F., "External Validation and Democratic Accountability in Latin American Elections," pp. 152-74, in Legler, Lean and Boniface (eds.), *Promoting Democracy in the Americas* (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).

Munck, Gerardo L., "Systematizing Practices: Criteria and Methods for Electoral Observation," pp. 34-45, in Elizabeth Spehar and Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian with Raúl Alconada Sempé (eds.), *The 2005-2006 Electoral Cycle in the Americas: A Review of the OAS General Secretariat* (Washington, D.C.: General Secretariat of the OAS, 2007).

Perina, Rubén M., "The Future of Electoral Observation," *Americas Quarterly* Vol. 6, N° 2, (Spring 2012): 18-24.

-Quiz # 3 (2/25)

Meetings 12, 13, 14 & 15 (2/27, 3/4, 3/6, 3/11): Completing Electoral Terms

Valenzuela, Arturo, "Latin American Presidencies Interrupted," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 15, N° 4 (2004): 5-19.

OAS AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91) on Representative Democracy. (Resolution adopted at the fifth plenary session, held on June 5, 1991). 1 pg.

OAS, *Inter-American Democratic Charter*. (Adopted by the General Assembly at its special session held in Lima, Peru, on September 11, 2001). Reread Ch. 4.

Perina, Rubén M., "The Role of the Organization of American States," pp. 127-71, in Morton H. Halperin and Mirna Galic (eds.), *Protecting Democracy: International Responses* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2005).

Fabry, Mikulas, "The Inter-American Democratic Charter and Governmental Legitimacy in the International Relations of the Western Hemisphere," *Diplomacy & Statecraft* Vol. 20, N° 1 (2009): 107-35.

McConnell, Shelley A., "A Tale of Two Crises: Resolving Constitutional Conflicts in Nicaragua," 2010. Read only pp. 19-38 (on "The 2005 Constitutional Crisis.")

Legler, Thomas, "The Democratic Charter in Action: Reflections on the Honduran Crisis," *Latin American Policy* Vol. 3, N° 1 (2012): 74-87.

Documentary: *The Fall of Fujimori* (2005).

-Quiz # 4 (3/11)

Meeting 16 (3/13). Mid-Term

***** In-Class Mid-Term Exam: March 13 *****

*** Spring Break: March 18-23 ***

3. Political Rights II: Political Inclusion

Meetings 17 & 18 (3/25, 3/27): Questions of Gender, Ethnicity and Race

Llanos, Beatriz and Kristen Sample, *30 Years of Democracy: Riding the Wave? Women's Political Participation in Latin America* (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2008). 55 pgs.

Htun, Mala, "Political Inclusion and Social Inequality: Women, Afro-descendants, and Indigenous Peoples," pp. 72-96, in Jorge I. Domínguez and Michael Shifter (eds.), *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America* 3rd. ed. (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).

-Research Paper (3/27): A brief description of your research topic is due.

4. Civil Rights

Meetings 19, 20 & 21 (4/1, 4/3, 4/8): Confronting the Past: Transitional Justice

Sikkink, Kathryn and Carrie Booth Walling, "The Impact of Human Rights Trials in Latin America," *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 44, N° 4 (2007): 427-45.

Roehrig, Terence, "Executive Leadership and the Continuing Quest for Justice in Argentina," *Human Rights Quarterly* Vol. 31, N° 3 (2009): 721-47.

Roht-Arriaza, Naomi, "The Multiple Prosecutions of Augusto Pinochet," pp. 77-94, in Ellen Lutz and Caitlin Reiger (eds.), *Prosecuting Heads of State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Documentary: *The Judge and the General* (2008).

-Quiz # 5 (4/8)

Meetings 22, 23 & 24 (4/10, 4/15, 4/17): The Current Violence: Crime and Drugs

Pion-Berlin, David and Harold Trinkunas, "Latin America's Growing Security Gap," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 22, N° 1 (2011): 39-53.

Beittel, June S., "Mexico's Drug Trafficking Organizations: Source and Scope of the Rising Violence" (August 2012). 44 pgs.

Wyler, Liana Sun, "International Drug Control Policy: Background and U.S. Responses" (October 2012). 37 pgs.

Report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy Report (June 2011). 17 pgs.

Documentary: *Breaking the Taboo* (2012).

Meetings 25 (4/22): The Inter-American Human Rights System

Goldman, Robert K., "History and Action: The Inter-American Human Rights System and the Role of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights," *Human Rights Quarterly* Vol. 31, N° 4 (2009): 856-87.

-Quiz # 6 (4/24)

5. Social Rights

Meeting 26 (4/24): Revisiting Neoliberalism and the Problem of Inequality

Reid, Michael, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul* (New Haven, CT.: Yale University Press, 2007), Ch. 6 (pp. 124-58) on "The Rise and Fall of the Washington Consensus," Read only pages 124-132, skip pp. 132-47, and resume reading on page 147 (the section on "A balance sheet of the reforms").

Birdsall, Nancy, Nora Lustig and Darryl McLeod, "Declining Inequality in Latin America: Some Economics, Some Politics," *CGD Working Papers* # 201 (Washington, D.C.: Center for Global Development, 2011). 29 pgs.

Meeting 27 (4/29): Poverty and Social Policy

Díaz-Cayeros, Alberto and Beatriz Magaloni, "Aiding Latin America's Poor," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 20, N° 4 (2009): 36-49.

Fukuyama, Francis, "The Latin American Experience," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 19, N° 4 (2008): 69-79.

6. Conclusions

Meeting 28 (5/1): A Recapitulation

-Research Paper (5/1): Research paper is due.

***** Final Exam: Friday, May 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m *****