

# **International Relations 365: Politics and Democracy in Latin America**

**Fall 2013**

When: M & W 3:30-4:50 p.m.  
Where: VKC 150  
Office Hours: W 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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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 emphasis 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 (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* 7th. edition (Oxford University Press, 2010). We will also read a book chapter that can be accessible through the Blackboard, under "Course Content."

## Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

### I. Meetings # 1, 2, 3 & 4 (8/26, 8/28, 9/4, 9/9). Issues and Trends

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapters. 1, 2, 12 and 13 (only pages 376-93).
- Quiz # 1 (9/11)

\*\*\* Labor Day: No class on Monday, September 2 \*\*\*

### II. Meetings # 5, 6, 7 & 8 (9/11, 9/16, 9/18, 9/23). Argentina

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 9.
- Quiz # 2 (9/25)

### III. Meetings # 9, 10, 11 & 12 (9/25, 9/30, 10/2, 10/7). Chile

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 10.
- Quiz # 3 (10/9)

### IV. Meetings # 13, 14 & 15 (10/9, 10/14, 10/16). Brazil

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 11.

### Meeting # 16 (10/21). Mid-Term

### V. Meetings # 17, 18, 19 & 20 (10/23, 10/28, 10/30, 11/4). Mexico

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 3.
- Quiz # 4 (11/6)

### VI. Meetings # 21, 22 & 23 (11/6, 11/11, 11/13). Cuba

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 5.
- Quiz # 5 (11/18)

### VII. Meetings # 24, 25 & 26 (11/18, 11/20, 11/25). The Andean Region

- Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America*, Chapters 6, 7 and 8.
- Quiz # 6 (12/2)

\*\*\* Thanksgiving Break: November 27-30 \*\*\*

### VII. Meeting # 27 (12/2). The United States and Latin America

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* 6th. edition (Oxford University Press, 2005), Chapter 12.

### VIII. Meeting # 28 (12/4). Overview

\*\*\* Final Exam: Monday, December 16, 2:00-4:00 p.m \*\*\*