



# USC University of Southern California

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

**Spring 2021**

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

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Office: Online

### **Course Description**

Latin America has undergone a sweeping transformations since the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Now most countries are democracies. However, these democracies face major challenges and they have not been successful at meeting these challenges. The course offers an introduction to current politics in Latin America. To begin, it provides an overview of 20<sup>th</sup> century politics. Then it addresses a range of contemporary issues: efforts to maintain and deepen democracy, to deal with a legacy pf human rights violations, and to contain corruption and violence. The course covers Latin America as a whole and it depicts regional patterns. It also focuses on some specific countries, which are discussed in detail.

### **Learning Objectives**

The objectives of the course are: (1) to introduce basic concepts used in the study of politics and to clarify their normative content; (2) to learn how to interpret quantitative data; (3) to assess the state of democracy in Latin America and assess how well democracy is addressing key challenges; and (4) to understand how domestic and international factors strengthen or weaken democracy.

### **Requirements, Grading Breakdown and Scale**

Students are expected to complete the reading assignment for each topic. Students are also responsible for mastering the additional materials that are introduced in class, in power points that will be distributed after class.

Course grades are based on the following tests: four *quizzes* (15% of the overall grade), a first in-class quiz-based *mid-term exam* (15%), a second in-class essay-type *mid-term exam* (30%), and an in-class essay-type *final exam* (35%).

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
4 Quizzes	15
Mid-term Exam I (quiz based)	15
Mid-term Exam II (essay type)	35
Final Exam (essay type)	35
Total	100

With regard to the quizzes, we will have five quizzes and the lowest one will be dropped. Provisional dates for the quizzes below are included 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.

<b>Grading Scale</b>	
<b>Number</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D

### **Readings and Class Power Points**

All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under “Readings.” Below you will see which reading you are responsible for reading for each meeting of the class. (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.)

The power points of each class will be uploaded to the Blackboard after each class; you will find them under “Power Points and Class Recordings.”

## **Zoom Practices**

We will start our classes at 3:30 p.m. Please turn up to the Zoom room 5 minutes before the start of class.

Please keep your camera turned on in all our classes.

Classes will be taped and uploaded to Blackboard in the section on “Power Points and Class Recordings.”

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment:

SCampus Section 11.12(B). Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

## Course Outline, Readings and Assignments

**Meeting # 1 (1/18):** Martin Luther King's Birthday: No class

**Meeting # 2 (1/20):** Introduction

No readings

### PART I

#### 1. Dictatorship and Democracy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Meeting # 3 (1/25):** Dictatorships and Democracy Before the Cuban Revolution

Luna, Juan Pablo, and Gerardo L. Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 4. "Authoritarianism, Democratization, and Democracy." [Read the Introduction and sections 4.1., 4.2, and 4.3, up to the beginning of the section on "The Cuban Revolution and Violent Authoritarianism."]

Documentary: Part of *Between the Wars: 1918-1941* (1978), Episode 10. *Latin America: Intervention in Our Own Backyard*.

**Meeting # 4 (1/27):** Dictatorships and Civil Wars During the Cold War

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 4. "Authoritarianism, Democratization, and Democracy." [Read section 4.3, on "The Cuban Revolution and Violent Authoritarianism" and "A Balance Sheet."]

Documentary: Part of *Cold War* (1999), Episode 18. *Backyard (1954–1990)*, and part of *Our Disappeared/Nuestros Desaparecidos* (2008).

**Meeting # 5 (2/1):** Transitions to Democracy in the 1980s and 1990s

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 4. "Authoritarianism, Democratization, and Democracy." [Read sections 4.4 and 4.5.]

Documentary: *A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict* (2000), Episode 6: *Chile: Defeat of a Dictator*.

• **Quiz # 1 (2/1)**

## 2. Democracy and the Quality of Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### Meeting # 6 (2/3): The Concept and State of Democracy

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 5. "Democracy and the Quality of Democracy." [Read up the Introduction, and sections 5.1. and 5.2.]

### Meeting # 7 (2/8): Explaining the State of Democracy

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 5. "Democracy and the Quality of Democracy." [Read section 5.3.]

### Meeting # 8 (2/10): The International Democracy Regime

Perina, Rubén M., "Electoral Observation: Between Relevance and Interference," pp. 141–62, in Perina, *The Organization of American States as the Advocate and Guardian of Democracy* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc., 2015).

Perina, Rubén M., "The Inter-American Democratic Charter," pp. 81–110, in Perina, *The Organization of American States as the Advocate and Guardian of Democracy* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc., 2015).

### Meeting # 9 (2/15): The Case of Venezuela

Seelke, Clare Ribando et al., "Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations" (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2020). 37 pgs. Read only from page 2 to the top of page 22.

Corrales, Javier, "Authoritarian Survival: Why Maduro Hasn't Fallen." *Journal of Democracy* 31(3): 2020: 39–53.

Documentary: Part of *The Battle for Venezuela* (2018).

### Meeting # 10 (2/17): Presidents' Day: No class

### Meeting # 11 (2/22): Mid-Term I (Quiz-Type)

## PART II

### **3. Democracy and Political Inclusion: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity**

#### **Meeting # 12 (2/24): Women in Political Office and Gender Quotas**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations." [Read the Introduction and sections 6.1 and 6.2.]

#### **Meeting # 13 (3/1): Gender Quotas**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations." [Reread sections 6.2, "Explaining Women's Gains."]

#### **Meeting # 14 (3/3): Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations." [Read section 6.3, the part on "Prior Consultation and Indigenous Peoples" in section 6.4, and section 6.5. ]

Htun, Mala, and Juan Pablo Ossa, "Political Inclusion of Marginalized Groups: Indigenous Reservations and Gender Parity in Bolivia." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 1(1) 2013: 4–25.

#### **• Quiz # 2 (3/3)**

### **4. Democracy and Human Rights: Transitional Justice**

#### **Meeting # 15 (3/8): The Concept and State of Transitional Justice**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 9. "Transitional Justice." [Read the Introduction and sections 9.1 and 9.2.]

#### **Meeting # 16 (3/10): More on the State of Transitional Justice**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 9. "Transitional Justice." [Reread section 9.2.]

#### **Meeting # 17 (3/15): Explaining Transitional Justice: The Case of Argentina**

Balardini, Lorena, "Argentina: Regional Protagonist of Transitional Justice," pp. 50–76, in Elin Skaar, Jemima Garcia-Godos, and Cath Collins (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016).

**Meeting # 18 (3/17): Explaining Transitional Justice: The Case of Chile**

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

Documentary: Part of *The Pinochet Case* (2001).

**Meeting # 19 (3/22): Explaining Transitional Justice: Other Cases and Lessons from the Case Studies**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 9. "Transitional Justice." [Read sections 9.3 and 9.4.]

• **Quiz # 3 (3/22)**

**Meeting # 20 (3/24): Mid-Term II (Essay-Type)**

**PART III**

**5. Democracy and Money: High-level Corruption**

**Meeting # 21 (3/29): The Concept and State of High-level Corruption**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "High-Level Corruption." [Read the Introduction and sections 10.1. and 10.2.]

Documentary: Part of *The Panama Papers* (2018).

**Meeting # 22 (3/31): Explaining High-level Corruption: The Cases of Brazil, Mexico and Guatemala**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "High-Level Corruption." [Read section 10.3, up to the beginning of the section on the Lessons from the Case Studies.]

Moro, Sérgio Fernando, "Preventing Systemic Corruption in Brazil." *Daedalus* 147(3) 2018: 157–68.

Documentary: *What Happened to Brazil?* (2019), Episode 2. *The Carwash and the Coup*. 23 minutes.

**Meeting # 23 (4/5): Explaining High-level Corruption: Lessons from the Case Studies**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "High-Level Corruption." [Read the Lessons from the Case Studies in section 10.3 and section 10.4.]

• **Quiz # 4 (4/5)**

**Meeting # 24 (4/7):** Wellness Day: No class

**6. Democracy and Security: The New Violence**

**Meeting # 25 (4/12): The Concept and State of New Violence**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "The New Violence." [Read the Introduction and sections 11.1 and 11.2.]

**Meeting # 26 (4/14): Explaining the New Violence: The Case of Mexico**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "The New Violence." [Read sections 11.3.]  
Beittel, June S., "Mexico: Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking Organizations." *CRS Report R41576* (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2020). 34 pgs.

Documentary: Part of *Blood on the Wall* (2020).

**Meeting # 27 (4/19): Explaining the New Violence: The Northern Triangle Cases and Lessons from the Case Studies**

Luna and Munck, *Introduction to Contemporary Latin American Politics* (forthcoming), Ch. 10. "The New Violence." [Read sections 11.3.]

Documentary: Part of *Gangs of El Salvador* (2015).

**Meeting # 28 (4/21): Rethinking the International War on Drugs I**

Global Commission on Drug Policy, *The War on Drugs* (Geneva, Switzerland: Global Commission on Drug Policy, 2011). 19 pgs.

Documentary: Part of *Breaking the Taboo* (2012).

**Meeting # 29 (4/26): Rethinking the International War on Drugs II**

Class debate

**7. Conclusions**

**Meeting # 30 (4/28): A Recapitulation**

• **Quiz # 5 (4/28)**

**\*\*\* Final Exam: Friday, May 7, 2:00-4:00 pm \*\*\***



## 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/department/department-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](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

### *Support Systems*

*Counseling and Mental Health* - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)* - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*

[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symphlicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symphlicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*

[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](http://campussupport.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.