



USC University of Southern California

International Relations 365: Politics and Democracy in Latin America

Spring 2022

When: M & W 5:00-6:20 p.m.
Where: CPA 100
Office Hours: W 3:00-4:20 p.m.
or by appointment

Professor Gerardo Munck
E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office: VKC 326A
Grader: Maria D. Perez
<mdperez@usc.edu>

Course Description

Latin America has undergone a sweeping transformations since the late 20th 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 20th 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* (35%), and an in-class essay-type *final exam* (35%).

Assignment	% of Grade
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.

Grading Scale	
Number	Letter Grade
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.”

Course Outline, Readings and Assignments

Meeting # 1 (1/10): Introduction

No readings

Part I

1. Dictatorship and Democracy in the 20th Century

Meeting # 2 (1/12): Dictatorship and Democracy Before the Cuban Revolution

Munck, Gerardo L., and Juan Pablo Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2022, forthcoming); Ch. 3. "Political Regimes and Democracy." [Read pages 82–103.]

Meeting # 3 (1/17): Martin Luther King's Birthday: No class

Meeting # 4 (1/19): Dictatorship and Democracy After the Cuban Revolution

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 3. "Political Regimes and Democracy." [Read pages 103–17.]

2. Democracy and the Quality of Democracy in the 21st Century

Meeting # 5 (1/24): The Concept and State of Democracy

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 5. "Democracy and the Quality of Democracy: The Never-Ending Quest." [Read pages 165–82.]

Meeting # 6 (1/26): Explaining the State of Democracy

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 5. "Democracy and the Quality of Democracy: The Never-Ending Quest." [Read pages 182–97.]

• Quiz # 1 (1/26)

Meeting # 7 (1/31): 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 # 8 (2/2): The Case of Venezuela

Seelke, Clare Ribando *et al.*, "Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations" (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2021). 34 pgs. (Read from page 1 until the top of page 21.)

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 # 9 (2/7): Thinking About Democracy

Class discussion, on what are the problems facing democracy and how democracy can be strengthened.

Meeting # 10 (2/9): Mid-Term I (Quiz-Type)

Part II

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

Meeting #11 (2/14): Political Inclusion and Women in Political Office

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations: Women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, and Ordinary People." [Read pages 201–10.]

Meeting # 12 (2/16): Gender Quotas

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations." [Read pages 210–18.]

Meeting # 13 (2/21): Presidents' Day: No class

Meeting # 14 (2/23): Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 6. "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations." [Read pages 218–27 and 229–32.]

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.

Meeting # 15 (2/28): Thinking About Political Inclusion

Class discussion, on the pros and cons of different measures and efforts to foster political inclusion.

• Quiz # 2 (2/28)

4. Democracy and Human Rights: Transitional Justice

Meeting # 16 (3/2): The Concept and State of Transitional Justice

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 9. “Transitional Justice: Responses to Past Human Rights Violations.” [Read pages 310–31.]

Meeting # 17 (3/7): More on the State of Transitional Justice

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 9. “Transitional Justice.” [Reread pages 324–31.]

Meeting # 18 (3/9): Explaining Transitional Justice: Brazil, Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 9. “Transitional Justice.” [Read pages 331–35.]

García-Godos, Jemima, and Luis Raúl Salvadó, “Guatemala: Truth and Memory on Trial,” pp. 203–26, in Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016).

*** Spring Recess: March 13-20 ***

Meeting # 19 (3/21): Explaining Transitional Justice: The Case of Chile

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 9. “Transitional Justice.” [Read pages 335–37.]

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 # 20 (3/23): Explaining Transitional Justice: The Case of Argentina and General Reflections

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 9. “Transitional Justice.” [Read pages 337–45.]

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

Meeting # 21 (3/28): Quiz # 3 & Mid-Term II (Essay-Type)

Part III

5. Democracy and Money: High-level Corruption

Meeting # 22 (3/30): The Concept and State of High-level Corruption

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 10. “High-Level Corruption: Public Officials against the Public Interest.” [Read pages 350–64.]

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

Meeting # 23 (4/4): Explaining High-level Corruption: The Cases of Brazil, Mexico, and Guatemala

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 10. “High-Level Corruption.” [Read pages 364–76.]

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 # 24 (4/6): Explaining High-level Corruption: General Reflections

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 10. “High-Level Corruption.” [Read pages 376–82.]

• Quiz # 4 (4/6)

6. Democracy and Security: The New Violence

Meeting # 25 (4/11): The Concept and State of New Violence

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 11. “The New Violence: Homicides, Drugs, and the State.” [Read pages 386–96.]

Meeting # 26 (4/13): Explaining the New Violence: The Case of Mexico

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 11. “The New Violence: Homicides, Drugs, and the State.” [Read pages 396–408.]

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 (4/18): Explaining the New Violence: The Northern Triangle Cases and General Reflections

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society*; Ch. 11. “The New Violence: Homicides, Drugs, and the State.” [Read pages 408–22.]

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

Meeting # 28 (4/20): 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 (4/25): Rethinking the International War on Drugs II

Class debate, on the pros and cons of the US’s War on Drugs.

7. Conclusions

Meeting # 30 (4/27): A Recapitulation

- Quiz # 5 (4/27)

***** Final Exam: Wednesday, May 4, 4:30-6:30 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 describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
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

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

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, 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

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

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

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

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, 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

Non-emergency assistance or information.