



USC University of Southern California

Political Science 350: Politics of Latin America

Fall 2023

When: M & W 3:30-4:50 p.m.
Where: DMC 152
Office Hours: M 1:00-3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Professor Gerardo Munck
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Grader: Kathleen Moore
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Course Description

Latin America is the region of the developing world with the greatest experience with democracy. It has considerable experience with populist leaders, military rulers, and a few important revolutions. It also is a region of the world in which the United States has considerable influence.

This course offers an introduction to politics in Latin America that addresses the variety of political experiences in the region. The course is divided into three parts. (1) It starts with a broad overview of the region's experience with dictatorship and democracy and various models of economic development (2) It turns next to three countries (Brazil, Argentina and Chile) and focuses on developments since its transition to mass politics in the 1920s-40s), considering its period of military rule and its current democracies. (3) Finally, it discusses two countries (Mexico and Cuba) that underwent revolutions in the 20th century (1910-20 and 1959, respectively), followed by prolonged periods of authoritarianism, and that currently face different challenges. Where relevant, external influences, such as the role of the United States, are considered.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the course are: (1) to introduce basic concepts used in the study of politics around the world (e.g. democracy, military regimes, models of economic development); (2) to introduce students to the main trends in Latin American politics and to some of the key political challenges currently faced by countries in Latin America; and (3) to learn how countries can be compared to each other.

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%).

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	A
90	A-
87	B+
83	B
80	B-
77	C+
73	C
70	C-
67	D+
63	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.”

Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Meeting # 1 (8/21): Introduction

Part I. Politics and Economics in Latin America: An Overview

Meeting # 2 (8/23). Political Regimes I. Dictatorships and Democracy Before the Cuban Revolution

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022), Ch. 3. “Political Regimes and Democracy.” (Read from the beginning through the end of section 3.3.2, “Populism and Military Coups.”)

Meeting # 3 (8/28). Political Regimes II. Dictatorships and Democracy in the Wake of the Cuban Revolution

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022), Ch. 3. “Political Regimes and Democracy.” (Read from section 3.3.3, “The Revolution and Violent Authoritarianism,” until section 3.3.4, “A Balance Sheet.”)

Meeting # 4 (8/30). Political Regimes II. Dictatorships and Democracy since the 1980s

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022), Ch. 3. “Political Regimes and Democracy.” (Read from section 3.4, “A New Democratic Age, 1980-2010s,” until the end of the chapter.)

Meeting # 5 (9/4): No class. Labor Day

Meeting # 6 (9/6): Political Regimes III. Current Problems of Democracy in Venezuela and Central America

Seelke et al., “Venezuela” (2022). (Read from page 2, with the section on “Political Situation,” until the top of page 16.)

Taft-Morales, “Nicaragua in Brief” (2022). (Read from page 2, with the section on “Political Developments,” until the middle of page 8.)

Rios, “Nicaragua” (2023).

Seelke et al., “El Salvador in Brief” (2022). (Read from page 2, with the section on “Political Situation,” until the middle of page 5.)

Rios, “Guatemala” (2023).

• Quiz # 1 (9/6)

Meeting # 7 (9/11): Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare I. From Agro-Export to ISI

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022), Ch. 4. “Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare.” (Read from the beginning through the end of section 4.3.3, “Strong Progress.”)

Meeting # 8 (9/13): Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare II. From ISI to Neoliberalism

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (2022), Ch. 4. “Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare.” (Read from section 4.3.4, “Internal Limits and the Foreign Debt Crisis of the 1980s,” until the end of the chapter.)

Meeting # 9 (9/18): Mid-Term I (Quiz-Type)

**Part II. Brazil, Argentina and Chile:
From Populism and Radicalism to Military Rule to Democracy**

Meeting # 10 (9/20): Brazil I: From Vargas to Military Rule (1964-85)

McCann, “Historical Setting,” pp. 3-85, in Hudson (ed.), *Brazil* (1998). (Read starting with the section on “The Era of Getúlio Vargas, 1930-54” on page 67 until page 84.)

Meeting # 11 (9/25): Brazil II: Democracy from Sarney to Lula III

Fausto, *A Concise History of Brazil* (2014), Ch 10, “Modernization under Democracy,” pp. 324-74.

Pereira, *Modern Brazil* (2010), Ch. 6, “Development or Decay?”

Meeting # 12 (9/27): Brazil III: Corruption and Violence under Democracy

Da Ros and Taylor, *Brazilian Politics on Trial* (2022), Chs. 4 and 5.

Crime, InSight and American University, CLALS, *The Rise of the PCC* (2020).

Meeting # 13 (10/2): Argentina I: From Perón to Military Rule (1976-83)

de Lima-Dantas, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-77, in Rudolph (ed.), *Argentina* (1985). (Read from the section on “National Revolution, 1943-46,” on page 50, up to page 77.)

Meeting # 14 (10/4). Argentina II: Democracy from Alfonsín to A. Fernández

Chen, “The Economic Tango Continues,” pp. 115-34, in Kline and Wade (eds.), *Latin American Politics and Development* (2023).

Meeting # 15 (10/9). Argentina III: Human Rights and Corruption under Democracy

Balardini, “Argentina,” pp. 50-76, in Skaar, García-Godos and Collins (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Latin America* (2016).

Volosin, *Corruption in Argentina* (2020), Ch. 5, “Modern Kleptocracy (2003-2015).”

• Quiz # 2 (10/9)

Meeting # 16 (10/11). Chile I: From Early Democracy to Allende and Military Coup

Valenzuela and Valenzuela, “Chile,” pp. 488-523, in Black (ed.), *Latin America* (2011). (Read from the beginning, on page 488, but skim pages 489 through 494, and then read closely starting with the section on “Transformation of the Party System...” up to the end of page 509.)

Meeting # 17 (10/16). Chile II: The Pinochet Dictatorship (1973-90) and Neoliberalism

Valenzuela and Valenzuela, “Chile,” pp. 488-523, in Black (ed.), *Latin America* (2011). (Read the section on “The Military in Government” from pages 509 until page 516.)

Valenzuela, “Government and Politics,” pp. 197-272, in Hudson (ed.), *Chile* (1994). (Read from page 203, starting with the section on “Imposition of Authoritarian Rule,” until the end of page 216.)

Meeting # 18 (10/18). Chile III: Democracy and the Legacies of Pinochet

Oppenheim, *Politics in Chile* (2018), Ch. 9, “The Long Transition Ends.”

Meeting # 19 (10/23). Chile IV: Protest and Constitutional Change Under Democracy

Rojas, Hugo, “Chile at the Crossroads.” *Seattle Journal for Social Justice* (2022).

Piscopo and Siavelis, “Chile’s Constitutional Chaos.” *Journal of Democracy* (2023).

Meeting # 20 (10/25). Mid-Term II (Essay Type) and Quiz # 3 (on Chile)

**Part III. Mexico and Cuba:
Revolution, Civilian Authoritarianism and Democracy**

Meeting # 21 (10/30). Mexico I: Social Revolution and the PRI

Haggerty, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-74, in Merrill and Miró (eds.), *Mexico* (1997). (Read from the section on “The Revolution, 1910-20,” on page 35, up to until the section on “From Revolution to Governance, 1940-82,” on page 48.)

Meeting # 22 (11/1). Mexico II: Civilian Authoritarianism

Haggerty, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-74, in Merrill and Miró (eds.), *Mexico* (1997). (Start reading on page 48, with the section on “From Revolution to Governance, 1940-82,” until the section on “The Crisis Begins, 1982,” on page 58.)

Meeting # 23 (11/6). Mexico III: Neoliberalism and Democratization

Haggerty, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-74, in Merrill and Miró (eds.), *Mexico* (1997). (Start reading on page 58, with the section on “The Crisis Begins, 1982,” until the end, on page 74.)

Russell, “The Zedillo Administration,” pp. 490-95, in Russell, *The History of Mexico* (2010).

Meeting # 24 (11/8). Mexico IV: Democracy from Fox to AMLO

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, *Contemporary Mexican Politics* (2020), Ch. 5, “Contemporary Mexican Politics 2000 to the Present.”

Dresser, “Mexico’s Dying Democracy.” *Foreign Affairs* (2022).

Meeting # 25 (11/13). Cuba I: Late Independence and US Influence

Suchlicki, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-86, in Hudson (ed.), *Cuba* (2001). (Read from the section on "Toward Independence, 1868-1902" on page 23, up to page 55.)

• **Quiz # 4 (on Mexico) (11/13)**

Meeting # 26 (11/15). Cuba II: Revolution and Cold War Socialism (The 1960s)

Suchlicki, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-86, in Hudson (ed.), *Cuba* (2001). (Start reading on page 55, with the section on "Background to Revolution, 1952-59," up to page 77.)

Meeting # 27 (11/20). Cuba III: Cold War Socialism and the End of the Castro Era

Suchlicki, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-86, in Hudson (ed.), *Cuba* (2001). (Start reading on page 77, with the section on "Institutionalization," until page 86.)

Meeting # 28 (11/22): No class. Thanksgiving Holiday

Meeting # 29 (11/27). Cuba IV: Post-Castro Cuba and the Prospects of Democracy

Sullivan, "Cuba" (2021). (Start reading on page 1, with the section on "Cuba's Political and Economic Environment," until the end of page 17.)

Meeting # 30 (11/29): A Recapitulation

• **Quiz # 5 (on Cuba) (11/29)**

***** Final Exam: Monday, December 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m. *****

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

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.symplicity.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.