

Introduction to Latin American Politics, POL/LAS 347
School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona
Fall 2014

Time: 2:00-3:15 p.m., Room 115, Harvill Building

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Office: Social Sciences Building 328A2
Office hours: 9 – 11 am, Tuesdays, or by appointment

“Latin Americans can’t seem to make democracy work.”
- William Ratliff, *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 July 2005.

This is a course about the complexities of democratization in Latin America. As in many other (if not all) regions of the world, the countries of Latin America have strived, with varying degrees of success, to establish stable and equitable democratic regimes. One basic premise of this course is that we can understand many of the broad trends and patterns in Latin America over the last 100 years by viewing them through a particular lens: that of the struggle for greater political, social, and economic inclusion. Therefore, an underlying question that will motivate our semester-long foray into Latin American politics is: to what extent have the countries in Latin America succeeded in becoming more democratic?

Course requirements:

Formal course requirements include the timely reading of assignments and regular attendance at lecture. Note that both of these are required and will impact your final grade, both directly (in terms of attendance taken) and indirectly (in terms of your performance on other assignments). Class lectures will address the readings, but they will not be based exclusively on these. Your understanding of the lecture will be enhanced by your familiarity with the readings. Both our class lectures and the assigned readings will be fair game for the exams.

Course requirements also include a midterm exam, two research designs (the second of which builds off of the first), and participation in in-class debates. You will receive more information on these as the weeks unfold.

The grade distribution for the course will be:

- Research Design #1, due on Thursday, September 18 at 2:00 pm: 20%
- Midterm exam, scheduled in class on Thursday, October 16: 25%
- Research Design #2, due on Monday, December 15, by 10:00 a.m.: 30%
- In-class Group Debates, scheduled throughout the semester: 20%
- Attendance and participation: 5%

Regarding attendance, please note the following: it is expected and required that all students attend *every* lecture. I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester (1 percentage point per class). Absences are permitted for the following two reasons and with prior notice by email:

- All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion, and
- Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored.

Regarding exam dates and assignment deadlines, please note that these dates are set in stone for all students. Exceptions will be made *only* for *documented* cases of illness or family crisis. Students seeking an exception must request it from me prior to the exam or the paper deadline.

Extra Credit opportunity: There will be an opportunity to earn an extra credit point in this course. This semester, individuals affiliated with SGPP will conduct several academic research projects at the SGPP Research Center. You will receive notice throughout the semester regarding these opportunities. After participating in a project, you will receive ONE percentage point. The point will be applied to your final score at the end of the semester. Please do not contact me about these opportunities. If you have questions, please send an email to SGPPResearch@email.arizona.edu. Also, a representative from the SGPP Research Center will visit our class to explain the SGPP Research Center and how you should sign up for a project. The projects typically involve completing a short survey, which usually takes between 15 minutes to an hour to complete.

Course readings:

I have assigned two textbooks for this course. The first is required reading; the second is recommended reading. They are both available at the University Bookstore. The required textbook readings will be complemented throughout the semester with additional (required) electronic readings, which will be made available on D2L.

Required reading:

Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at Last? Daniel C. Hellinger, Routledge, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-415-88917-9.

This book will serve as the foundation of our learning for the course. Rather than approach the study of Latin America through a country-by-country lens, it tackles the major issues and concepts that drive the comparative study of the region. The book includes a companion website, which you can access at: <http://www.routledge.com/textbooks/hellinger>. The site includes review questions and even practice quizzes.

Recommended purchase:

Modern Latin America, 8th edition. Thomas Skidmore, Peter H. Smith, and James N. Green. Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-19-992923-8.

This recommended book complements the Hellinger book nicely, since it provides case studies of all of the countries that we will be examining as a group, as

well as many more. I highly recommend that those of you who wish to study Latin America in the future obtain it for your bookshelf. It is a great reference.

NEW RULE! No laptops in class. It turns out you learn more (and better) without computers: <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/elements/2014/06/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom.html>.

(OLD) RULE! Please note that the use of cell phones and other hand-held devices that connect you to your family and friends is **not allowed** during class. The reasons for this should be obvious.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden and will be pursued and punished following the terms put forth by the University of Arizona. For more information on the university's policies, please see the following website:
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

Please keep in mind that the University of Arizona seeks to promote a safe environment where students may participate in the educational process without compromising their health, safety or welfare. As such, the university prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. For more information, please see the following website:
<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/threatening-behavior-students>.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Schedule of classes and readings:

August 26, 2014: Introduction to the course

August 28: No Class.

September 2: Democracy: What is it? How do we know it when we see it?

Readings: Ratliff, "Latin America's Flickering Democracy" (Christian Science Monitor, 2005); Hellinger, pp 19-39; Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not" (Journal of Democracy, 1991).

September 4: Democracy at the Beginning of the 20th Century in Latin America

Readings: Hellinger, Chapter 4 (*Suggested reading*: SSG p. 345-350, 371-373)

September 9-16: MEXICO. Revolution, corporatism, single-party rule.

Readings: Skidmore, Smith, and Green (available electronically) 47-79; Hellinger 283-294, 39-43, 260-269; Wiarda, *Corporatism and Comparative Politics* 1997, 1-15, 77-81.

***DUE September 18 at 2:00 pm*: Research Design #1. Political parties and Democracy in Mexico.

September 18-25: ARGENTINA. ISI, populism, and bureaucratic-authoritarianism.

Readings: Hellinger, Chapter 6 & 194-200; Green, "State v. Market: The Rise and Fall of Import Substitution"; Collier, "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." (*Suggested reading*: SSG, Chapter 9.)

September 30, October 2-7: CHILE. Multi-party democracy, democratic breakdown.

Readings: Hellinger, 171-190; Valenzuela, *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile* – Introduction & 3-49 & 77-80; John Lee Anderson, "The Dictator." (*Suggested reading*: SSG, Chapter 10. *Recommended viewing*: Machuca.)

October 9: DEBATE #1 (Chilean Coup)

October 14: Comparison of Mexico, Argentina, Chile.

Reading: Re-read Schmitter & Karl (1991), "What Democracy Is...and Is Not"

October 16: MIDTERM EXAM

October 21-23: No class

October 28: Third Wave of Democracy; Washington Consensus

Reading: Hellinger, 23-28, Chapters 8 & 9

October 30: Neoliberalism in crisis; rise of the "new Left(s)"

Reading: Castañeda, "Latin America's Left Turn."

November 4-6: BRAZIL. A new left via programmatic party. Revisiting the Washington Consensus.

Reading: Hellinger, 387-401; Hunter (2003) "Brazil's New Direction"; French and Fortes (2005) "Another World is Possible"; The Daily Beast, "Brazil's Lula: The Most Popular Politician on Earth," accessible at:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2009/09/21/the-most-popular-politician-on-earth.html>. (*Suggested reading*: SSG, Chapter 11.)

November 11: No class (Veteran's Day)

November 13: DEBATE #2 (Clientelism)

November 18-20, 25: VENEZUELA. A new left via neopopulism. Revisiting populism.

Reading: Hellinger, Chapter 10; Hawkins (2003) "Populism in Venezuela: The Rise of Chavismo"; Guillermoprieto, "Don't Cry for Me, Venezuela" and "The Gambler." (*Suggested reading:* SSG, Chapter 8.)

November 27: NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

December 2-4: BOLIVIA. A new left via social movements. Revisiting revolution.

Reading: Guillermoprieto, "A New Bolivia?"; Hellinger, Chapter 14; Domingo (2005) "Democracy and New Social Forces in Bolivia"; Kohl (2010) "Bolivia under Morales." (*Suggested reading:* SSG, Chapter 6, especially 166-176; Guillermoprieto, "The New Bolivia II.")

December 9: DEBATE #3 (Washington Consensus), DEBATE #4 (Democracy in Latin America)

December 15: Research Design due, to be uploaded to our D2L site by 10 a.m.