

College of Charleston
Cuba Program Spring 2018
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POLI 340.002 - Politics in Latin America: Roots of Current Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Contradictions.

Duration of the Program: Nine Weeks, from February 19 to April 25.
Classes will be at the Centro de Estudios Martianos, Calle Calzada no. 807 between 2 and 4. Vedado, Classroom 1 or 2. Every week there will be two classes of two hours each on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Objectives:

- 1) Students will learn the distinct character of the nation-states born in Latin America after independence from Spain in the first three decades of the 19th Century.
- 2) Students will learn to understand why Latin America remains the most unequal region of the world in spite of the abundant natural resources, and the forces that historically have promote economic and social development in the region.
- 3) The students will recognize the roots of the vulnerabilities and contradictions that are represented in political institutions, parties, movements and models of economic development in Latin America.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students should be able to recognize at least two approaches to the study of historical and contemporary Latin American political and economic development and *compare* and *contrast* them.

- 2) Students should be able to analyze the Latin America's roots of the two century long struggle with authoritarianism and *explain* the establishment of democratic regimes in the late 20th century throughout the region.
- 3) Students should be able to analyze and evaluate current Latin American political events and *relate* them to the approaches to Latin American development studied in class.

Class format - Lectures will be combined with extensive class discussion. In addition to class materials, current events in Latin America will be discussed. The success of this course depends upon students' active participation.

Evaluation:

Attendance - Attendance is mandatory

Critical Reviews.-Each student will write a critical review for Topics I, II, III and IV. Each essay must have a maximum of 2 pages. The assignments will be further discussed in class. Essays should be sent by e-mail or handed in hard copy to the professor on the deadline or it will lose grade points.

Final Exam. –A comprehensive essay (6-8 pages). Exam prompt will be distributed before the last class.

THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE COMPUTED

AS FOLLOWS:

Critical Review I	15%
Critical Review II	15%
Critical Review III	15%
Critical Review IV	15%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	
in class discussion	20%
Total	100%

Grading System:

93-100%= A

90-92 = A-

89-87 =B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

68-69 = D+

66-67 = D

65 = D-

0-64 = F

Academic Integrity:

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be

expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services/SNAP (Students Needing Access Parity), please come and discuss with me during my office hours.

Office Hours - Please feel free to see me any time.

Required Readings - Will be provided in digital format

1st. Week. – February, Monday 19 and Wednesday 21 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Introduction

Summary:

1. Conquest, colonization, independence and mimetic republicanism
2. The liberal model of development and political/economic under-development

Required Readings:

Lewis Hanke, "Bartolome de las Casas and the Spanish Empire in: Four Centuries of Misunderstanding", Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. 97, No. 1 (Feb.14, 1953) pp.2630.

Jeremy Smith, Europe and the Americas: State Formation, Capitalism and Civilizations in Atlantic Modernity, Boston: Brill Leiden, 2006, Chapter 1.

2nd Week. – February, Monday 26 and Wednesday 28 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Latin America and the World Capitalist System

Summary:

1. Latin American insertion in the capitalist world market following the export model
2. The Great Depression and the end of the export model
3. Latin American Populism and the beginning of embryonic industrialization
4. Theories on capitalist development: Modernization theory, dependency theory and developmentalist theory

Required Readings:

John Cavanagh and Robin Broad, "Development Redefined", Foreign Policy in Focus. September 24, 2008.

3er Week. – Monday, March 5 and Wednesday 7 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

The U.S.-Latin America Relations

Summary:

1. Latin American Relations with the United States. The Monroe Doctrine and the construction of a sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere.
2. The Big Stick policy of military intervention.
3. The Good Neighbor Policy

Required Readings:

James Monroe, "The Monroe Doctrine" in The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents 1790-1966, Vol. 1 (1790-1860), ed. Fred L. Israel, pp.202-14, New York: Chelsea House Publishers in association with the R.R. Bowker Company, 1967.

4th Week. - Monday, March 12 and Wednesday 14 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Latin America and the Cold War

Summary:

1. Latin American and the Cold War. The Inter-American System
2. The Cuban Revolution. The U.S. policy of isolation in the Hemisphere
3. Ronald Reagan, the Second Cold War and the Dirty War in Central America

Required Readings:

The Empire's Amnesia, An interview with Greg Grandin Michael K. Smith, "Reagan: The Real Story", Counterpunch, July 25, 2012

5th Week. – Monday, March 19 and Wednesday 21 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Military Dictatorships and Tutelary Democracy

Summary:

1. Military dictatorships and the introduction of neoliberalism in Latin America
2. The foreign debt crisis and the IMF and the World Bank's structural measures. Social impact.
3. Demilitarization and Democratic Transition in Latin America

Required Readings:

Enya González-Guitart, "The Future of U.S. Policy towards Latin America", American Security Project, December 2016.

6th Week. - Monday, March 26 and Wednesday 28 (1:00pm-3:00 pm)

Latin America and the End of the Cold War

Summary:

1. Changes in U.S. Perceptions about Latin America and its Role in U.S. National Security
2. Free Trade Agreements and ALCA
3. The Summits of the Americas

Required Readings:

William M. LeoGrande, "From the Red Menace to Radical Populism U.S. Insecurity in Latin America", *World Policy Journal*, Vol. XXII, No.4, Winter 2005-2006.

Albert Fishlow, "U.S. Policy Toward the Hemisphere: New Ideas for a New Administration", Center for Hemispheric Policy, University of Miami, U.S.-Latin America Task Force, September-December 2007.

David Macaray, "Obama and the Colombian Trade Pact", *Counterpunch*, may 10, 2011.

John Mueller, "What was the Cold War about? Evidence from its Ending", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 119, No. 4, Winter 2004-2005.

U.S. Engagement in the Western Hemisphere, Fact Sheet, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Washington, DC, October 4, 005.

7th Week. - Monday, April 2 and Wednesday 4 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Latin America Reaction to 25 years of neoliberal economic policies

Summary:

1. Social movements and the elections of progressive governments. The cases of Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Equator.
2. Bolivarianism and economic integration. The emphasis in social advances as health, education and the elimination of poverty.
3. ALBA, Petrocaribe, UNASUR and CELAC

Required Readings:

Pablo Bachelet, "Bush legacy: Farewell to the Monroe Doctrine?"
Commondreams, March 3, 2008.

Mark Engler, "CAFTA's Corpse Revived", Commondreams, March 2,
2006

Mark Loyka, "Inequality and Poverty in Latin America", Commondreams,
Weekend Edition, July 22/24, 2011.

Laura Carlsen, "Latin America's Pink Tide?", Foreign Policy in Focus, |
December 15, 2006.

W. Alejandro Sánchez, Senior Research Fellow at the Council on
Hemispheric Affairs "More Pragmatic, Less Ideological: Bringing the
U.S. and Bolivia Together", March 4, 2015.

Mark Weisbrot, "The Rise of CELAC, A New Force in Latin America",
Counterpunch, December 27, 2011.

Raul L. Madrid, "The Origins of the Two Lefts in Latin America", Political
Science Quarterly Vol.125, No.4, Winter 2010-2011.

Vijay Prashad, "The Long March in Latin America", Counterpunch,
Weekend Edition, January 8 - 10, 2010.

8th Week. - Monday, April 10 and Wednesday 12 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm.)

Latin America and the World

1. Latin America and new relations with extra-continental powers as
Russia, China, the European Union and others
2. Growing rapprochement with Cuba

Required Readings:

Joaquin Roy, "The European Union and Latin America: Relations and
Model" Tuesday March 31, 2009, <http://www.eustudies.org>.

Ramzy Baroud, "The Imagined, 'Sinister' Iranian Threat in Latin America", Counterpunch, January 03, 2013

Carmelo Ruiz-Marrero, "China Syndrome", Counterpunch, Weekend Edition, April 15-17, 2011

**8th Week. - Monday, April 9 and Wednesday 11 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)
Latin America and the Return of the Rightwing Oligarchies**

1. The world economic crisis, the fall of the commodities' prices and the return of the oligarchic governments through different methods in Latin America.
2. The reestablishment of the neoliberal policies and the popular reaction.

Required Readings:

Trent Boultinhouse, "Yes We Could: The Obama Administration and Latin America", Council on Hemispheric Affairs, September 13, 2012.

Shamus Cooke, "Obama's Second Latin American Coup?" Counterpunch, June 25, 2012.

Nick Alexandrov, "The Pentagon's New Plan to Confront Latin America's Pink Tide", Counterpunch, Weekend Edition October 19-21, 2012.

9th Week. - Monday, April 16 and Wednesday 18 (1:00 pm-3:00 pm)

Writing of the Final Essay, that should be presented on Wednesday 18

10th Week.-

The Professor will hand back the Graded Final Essay and the compounded Final Grade for this subject