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 has a maximum of 2 pages. The assignments will be further discussed in class. Essays should be send 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:

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<th>Component</th>
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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 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](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 underdevelopment


**Required Readings:**


**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:**


**3rd 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:


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:


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
3. Demilitarization and Democratic Transition in Latin America

Required Readings:

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:


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:


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


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:


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:


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