POLI 340.002 – Politics and Development Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean: Roots of Current Economic and Social Vulnerabilities and Contradictions

Pre-Requisites: None
Instructor: Raúl Rodríguez Rodríguez, PhD, Full Profesor- CEHSEU, University of Havana, e-mail: rodriguezr@cehseu.uh.cu

Duration of the Program: February 17th to April 27th, 2020

Class meets at the Centro de Investigaciones Psicológicas y Sociológicas, Calle B No 352, esquina 15, Vedado, La Habana-Cuba.
Times: Mondays and Thursdays 1.00 to 3.00 pm

Course Objectives:
The course have been conceived to improve students understanding of the complex interplay between historical, economic and political factors that determines the region current challenges and constraints in order to achieve sustainable economic development, political stability and social improvement from the global perspective contained in the Millennium Development Goals –MDG- approved by United Nations.

1) Students will learn: the distinct character of the nation-states born in Latin America after the independence from Spain in the first three decades of the 19th Century.
2) 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 and structural dependency in the region.
3) Identify the roots of the vulnerabilities and contradictions represented in political institutions, parties, movements and models of economic development in Latin America, so as the current perspectives from academic though on development strategies today.

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) Analyze the Latin American’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) Analyze and evaluate current Latin American political dynamics and relate them to the approaches to Latin American development challenges studied in class.

Class format –Lectures and extensive class discussion of readings assigned. In addition to class materials, current events in Latin America will also been discussed. The success of this course depends to a great extend upon student’s active participation given that the main purpose is to develop analytical and critical thinking.
Evaluation:
- Class attendance and participation -25%
- Critical review of readings assigned-50%
  Written summaries are encouraged, although oral or sketch / outline presentations are considered. Essays should be send by e-mail or handed in hard copy to the professor on the deadline or it will lose grade points.
- An intermediary written test-10%
- Final written test-15%

Attendance – Attendance is mandatory

Final Exam.- A comprehensive essay (6-8 pages) in a topic approved.

Grading System

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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 of 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 [here](http://parkj.people.cofc.edu/HonorCode.pdf).

**Accommodation 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.**- Will be scheduled after the first week of class, depending on students final schedule of activities.

**Required Readings** –Will be provided in digital format

**SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS.**

1st Week.- February, Monday 17 / Thursday 20
Introduction, European Colonization, Consequences for the region

**Summary:**
1. Conquest, colonization, independence and republicanism
2. Main Features of European Colonization in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. Structural fundaments of political/economic dependent underdevelopment

**Required Readings:**

2nd Week.- February, Monday 24 / Thursday 27
Latin America and the World

**Summary:**
1. Latin America and the Caribbean at the turn of the 19th Century into the 20th Century
2. The Great Depression and the end of the export model
3. Latin American Populism and the beginning of substitutive industrialization
4. Theories on capitalist development: Modernization theory, dependency theory and developmental theory. Evolution of though on development path and policies.

**Required Readings:**

**3rd Week.- Monday, March 2 / Thursday 5**

**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 9 / Thursday 12**

**Latin America and the Cold War**

**Summary:**
1. Latin America and the Cold War. The Inter-American System
2. The Cuban Revolution. The U.S. policy of isolation in the Hemisphere

**Required Readings:**

United States Objectives and Courses of Action With Respect to Latin America, Washington, March 18, 1953. Statement of Policy by the National Security Council Top Secret NSC 144/1 S/S–NSC files, lot 63 D 351, NSC 144 series


**5th Week.- Monday, March 16 / Thursday 19**

**Military Dictatorships and Neoliberal reforms**
Summary:
1. Military dictatorships and the introduction of neoliberalism in Latin America
2. The foreign debt crisis and the IMF and the World Banks structural measures.
   Social impact.
3. Demilitarization and Democratic Transition in Latin America

Required Readings:


6th Week.- Monday, March 23 / Thursday 26
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 FTAA 1994-2005
3. The Summits of the Americas

Required Readings:


7th Week.- Monday, March 30 / Thursday, April 2
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 Ecuador.
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:


8th Week.- Monday, April 6 / Thursday 9
Latin America and the World in the 21st Century

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

Required Readings:
Victor Jeifets, Russia is coming back to Latin America, Anuario Integracion 11 CRIES, 2015.

8th Week.- Monday, April 13 / Thursday 16
Latin America and the Return of the Rightwing

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:
Omar G. Encarnacion, The Trumpification of the Latin American Right, South American conservatives have an unlikely new role model. April 16, 2018
https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/04/16/the-trumpification-of-the-latin-american-right


9th Week.- Monday, April 20 / Thursday 23
Delivering of the Final Essay, and Final Discussion.