



COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON

College of Charleston Primavera 2017

Programa : COFC Semester Abroad in Argentina

Cátedra : POLI 340 Politics of Latin America

Profesor : Dr. Julio Burdman

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Horario de clases: Miércoles y Viernes de 16:00 hs a 17:50 hs; Aula 365

Horas de oficina: Por cita previa.

POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA

Latin America is one of the most dynamic regions of the world. Military coups and dictatorships, revolutions, guerrilla wars, drug wars, migration and immigration, financial crisis and dramatic growth make its politics confusing to the average North American observer. In this course we will try to cut through some of this confusion by considering a number of classic and contemporary approaches to the study of Latin American political and economic development. Both historical and contemporary political and economic development will be examined in an effort to ascertain the progress and direction of this crucial area of the world. Of particular interest to us, given recent developments in the political and economic spheres, will be the questions of democracy and the resistance to neoliberal economic policies in Latin America. This semester's focus will be *The New Geopolitics of Latin America: Natural Resources, Energy and the State*.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to produce reasoned critiques of social science literature by identifying the thesis of a work, formulating their own evaluations of it and defending their positions.
2. Students will recognize different approaches to the study of historical and contemporary Latin American political and economic development and compare and contrast them.
3. Students will relate explain and analyze Latin America's two century long struggles with authoritarianism and explain and assess the establishment of democratic regimes in the late 20th century throughout the region.
4. Students will analyze and evaluate current Latin American political events and relate them to the approaches to Latin American development studied in class.

CRITICAL REVIEWS

Each student will write a critical review of one reading selection in TOPICS I, II, III, IV, and V. Each essay must be a minimum of 3 pages. An orientative questionnaire could be distributed before each critical review deadline.

LATIN AMERICA CURRENT NEWS PROJECT

Groups of 3-4 students will be responsible for making an oral report on one important current news-story taken from the Latin American press. Online Latin American newspapers are available at <http://www.newspapers.com/> and <http://onlinenewspapers.com/> and <http://www.thepaperboy.com/> in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. News stories should have some current political or economic import. Groups will give a presentation summarizing the article and analyzing the story.

CORE READINGS - The books and articles mentioned in the syllabus should be read before the class for which they are assigned! Readings will be available in a packet.

TOPICS

I. INTRODUCTION: WHAT MAKES LATIN AMERICA DIFFERENT? - INSTITUTIONS, POLITICAL CULTURE AND THE HISTORICAL GAP BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES. Can historical patterns explain the development gap between North and South America? Spanish colonialism compared to British Colonialism. The Spanish State and pre-capitalist colonization. Social, political and economic aspects of the Independence movements. "Revolution", progressive liberalism and reactionary despotism. Institutional vs. geographic explanations of long-term growth.

READ: -Harrison *"The Roots of Divergence: Anglo-Protestant vs. Ibero-Catholic Culture"*
-Halperin Donghi, *"Two Centuries of South American Reflections on the Development Gap between the United States and Latin America"*
-Burns, *"The 19th Century: Progress and Cultural Conflict,"*
-Robinson, *"The Latin American Equilibrium"*

II. LATIN AMERICA AND THE WORLD CAPITALIST SYSTEM. Modernization theory vs dependency theory. Dependency theory vs. mode of production theory. Latin America as a victim of European and U.S. capitalist expansion? Dependent capitalism or underdeveloped capitalism? The Political Economy of Latin America. Is there an alternative? Socialism and Latin America.

READ: -Silvert, *"Politics of Social and Economic Change in Latin America"* (in Klaren and Bossert)
-Frank, *"The Development of Underdevelopment"* (in Klaren & Bossert).
-Laclau, *"Feudalism and Capitalism in Latin America"* (in Klaren & Bossert).
-Platt, *"Dependency and the Historian: Further Objections"*
-Prevost, "The Political Economy of Latin America".

III. **DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA.** The middle class, the military, and democracy. The rise of the masses. U.S. perceptions and disappointments. Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism and the rise of Latin American "new" democracies. Varieties of transitions. The rise and understanding of delegative democracy. The debate over the presidential system. Latin American presidencies and the perils of contemporary political instability.

READ: -Collier, *"Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model"*
-O'Donnell, *"Tensions in the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian State and the Question Of Democracy"*
-O'Donnell, *"Delegative Democracy"*
- Mainwaring and Pérez Liñán, *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America*
-Pérez Liñán, *Presidential Impeachment and the New Political Instability in Latin America*

IV. **THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA: FROM THE WASHINGTON CONSENSUS TO THE NEW LEFT TURN** Latin America's Debt Crisis. The International Banks, the World Bank, the IMF, and the selling of Latin America. Neoliberalism and privatization - a new development model or a new model of underdevelopment? New political coalitions in the 90's. Economic crises and the rising demand for distributional policies: the political economy of the left turn. The case of "rentier populism"

READ:-Jeffrey Frieden, *"Debt, Development and Democracy"*
-Carlos Vilas, *"Economic Restructuring, Neoliberal Reforms, and the Working Class in Latin America"*
-Gibson, "The populist road to market reform"
- Javier Santiso, *Latin America's Political Economy of the Possible*
-Steven Levitsky, Kenneth M. Roberts, *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*
-Sebastián Mazzuca, "The rise of rentier populism"

V. **SPECIAL FOCUS. Federalism in Latin America.**

Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and other Latin American countries are political federations. How does it shape their democratic regimes and economic dynamics? The history of federalism and regional conflict after Independence. Can we compare Latin American political federalism with American federal institutions? Political federalism and the party system. Fiscal federalism: how national and subnational governments get into distributional struggles. The comparative study of subnational governments: a research agenda.

READ: - Gibson, "Federalism and Democracy in Latin America: Theoretical Connections and Cautionary Insights"
Wiesner, *Fiscal Federalism in Latin America*
Suárez-Cao & Freidenberg, *Multylevel Party Systems and Democracy. A New Typology of Parties and Party Systems in Latin America*

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 your active participation!!

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. More than THREE un-excused absences will produce a grade of "F" (since only I can excuse you, check with me first)

Electronics Policy

All laptops, ipods (or equivalent), and cell phones must be turned off during class time. If you must have your cell phone on for emergency purposes it must be set to vibrate only and put away out of sight.

Paper submissions

Papers should be handed to me at the appropriate time when they are due unless otherwise directed. YOU are responsible for making sure I received your paper on time. Digital copy should also be sent at deadline to julioburdman@derecho.uba.ar

Exams - There will be one in-class FINAL EXAM.

Critical Reviews - see page one. The assignment will be further discussed in class.

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.

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>

OFFICE HOURS

Formal office hours will be:
by appointment

THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE COMPUTED AS FOLLOWS:

Critical Review I	10%
Critical Review II	10%
Critical Review III	10%
Critical Review IV	10%
Critical Review V	10%
News Project	5%
Final Exam	30%
<u>Participation in class discussion</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	100%

GRADES

93-100% = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = 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