

**POLI 340**  
**Politics of Latin America**  
**SPRING 2017**  
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## **POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA**

Latin America is one of the most dynamic regions of the world. Military coups, revolutions, guerrilla wars, drug wars, migration and immigration, financial crisis, dramatic growth, and dictatorship 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 Latin American Left and Counterrevolution of the Right

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will *demonstrate* the ability to *produce* reasoned critiques of social science literature by being able to *identify* the thesis of a work and *formulate* their own *evaluations* of it and *defend* their positions.
2. Students will 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.
3. Students will be able to *relate* and *analyze* Latin America's two century long struggle with authoritarianism and *explain* and assess the establishment of democratic regimes in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century throughout the region.
4. Students will be able to *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, III, II, IV, and V. Each essay must be a minimum of 3 pages.

### **LATIN AMERICA CURENT 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. Groups will always report on a Wednesday of the week and distribute copies (or the URL) of the article on the Monday before. A signup sheet will be circulated the second week of classes.

**CORE READINGS** - The following books and articles must be read before the class for which they are assigned! The following books are available in the College Book Store. Selections marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) can be downloaded

Peter Klaren & Thomas Bossert.. **Promise of Development.** Westview Pr.

Jeffery Webber & Barry Carr, eds., **The New Latin American Left**. Rowman

\*\*Lawrence Harrison. ***"The Roots of Divergence: Anglo-Protestant versus Ibero-Catholic Culture."***

\*\*David Collier. ***"Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model."***

\*\*Eduardo Galeano. ***"The Dictatorship and its Aftermath: The Secret Wounds"***

\*\*E. Bradford Burns. ***"The 19th Century: Progress and Cultural Conflict" & "The Elite Preference for Progress"***

\*\*D.C.M. Platt. ***"Dependency and the Historian: Further Objections"***

\*\*Beatriz Sarlo. ***"Argentina Under Menem: The Aesthetics of Domination"***

\*\*Joseph Collins & John Lear. ***"The Privatization of Social Security"***

\*\*Cathy Schneider. ***"Chile: The Underside of the Miracle"***

\*\*Barbara Briggs & Charles Kernaghan. ***"Haiti: A Sweatshop Model of Development"***

\*\*Jan Knippers Black. ***"For Richer and Poorer: South America's Tenuous Social Truce"***

\*\*Jorge Neff. ***"Demilitarization and Democratic Transition in Latin America"***

\*\*Fidel Castro, ***"Neoliberalism, Global Inequality, and Irreparable Destruction of Our Natural Habitat"***

\*\*John Weeks, ***"The Contemporary Latin American Economies: Neoliberal Reconstruction"***

\*\*Carlos Vilas, ***"Economic Restructuring, Neoliberal Reforms, and the Working Class in Latin America."***

\*\*Gonzalez & Dominzain, ***"Anatomy of the New Brazilian Right"***

\*\*Marco Teruggi, ***"Venezuela on Fire"***

## TOPICS

I. **INTRODUCTION: A DISTINCT POLITICAL TRADITION? - CONQUEST, COLONIALISM, INDEPENDENCE AND THE LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE.** Spanish absolutism and Spanish colonialism. The Spanish State and pre-capitalist colonization. Pluralism and monism. Social, political and economic aspects of the Independence movements. "Revolution"!! - progressive liberalism or reactionary despotism?? The 'living museum' thesis. The liberal model of development and political/economic under-development. Inorganic democracy and liberal democracy - Latin America between two worlds. (approx. 3 weeks)

READ: \*\*Harrison *"The Roots of Divergence: Anglo-Protestant vs Ibero-Catholic Culture"*  
Wiarda, *"Social Change, Political Development and the Latin American Tradition"* (in Klaren & Bossert).  
\*\*Burns, *"The 19th Century: Progress and Cultural Conflict,"*  
\*\*Burns, *"The Elite Preference for Progress"*

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?? Is there an alternative? - socialism and Latin America. (approx. 3 weeks)

READ: Silvert, *"Politics of Social and Economic Change in Latin America"* (in Klaren)  
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"*

III. **POLITICAL STABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA - DICTATORSHIP TO DEBT - CRISIS AND AUTHORITARIANISM?** 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. (approx. 2.5 weeks)

READ: \*\*Collier, *"Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model"*  
O'Donnell, *"Tensions in the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian State and the Question Of Democracy"* (in Klaren & Bossert).  
\*\*Eduardo Galeano. *"The Dictatorship and its Aftermath: The Secret Wounds"*  
\*\*Jorge Neff. *"Demilitarization and Democratic Transition in Latin America"*  
\*\*Sarlo, *"Argentina Under Menem: The Aesthetics of Domination"*

IV. **DEBT, DEVELOPMENT AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT.** The Latin American 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? (approx. 3 weeks)

READ: \*\*Fidel Castro, *"Neoliberalism, Global Inequality, and Irreparable Destruction of Our Natural Habitat"* ( Message to the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)  
\*\*John Weeks, *"The Contemporary Latin American Economies: Neoliberal Reconstruction"*  
\*\*Carlos Vilas, *"Economic Restructuring, Neoliberal Reforms, and the Working Class in Latin America"*  
\*\*Collins & Lear, *"The Privatization of Social Security"*  
\*\*Schneider, *"Chile: The Underside of the Miracle"*  
\*\*Briggs & Kernaghan, *"Haiti: A Sweatshop Model of Development"*  
\*\*Black, *"For Richer and Poorer"*

V. **SPECIAL FOCUS: The New Latin American Left and Counterrevolution of the Right.** The new "revolution" in Latin America? Grass roots, participatory democracy and the Gramscian approach to social revolution. Counterrevolution in Brazil and Venezuela (approx. 2.5 weeks)

READ: \*\*Gonzalez & Dominzain, "Anatomy of the New Brazilian Right"  
\*\*Marco Teruggi, "Venezuela on Fire"  
The New Latin American Left  
Chapters. 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14 and 15

**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 five 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 AND PUT AWAY

OUT OF SIGHT 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. Papers may not be submitted by email unless cleared with me first.

### **Paper submissions**

Papers should be handed in 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.

**Exams** - There will be one in-class Latin America geography exam.

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

### **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is considered the worst academic offense. It will lead to failure in this course at the minimum. I am interested in what **you** have to say, not in your regurgitating what someone else says. Regurgitation is for birds.

#### **Plagiarism is:**

1. The verbatim repetition, without acknowledgment, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/ endnotes.
2. Borrowing without acknowledging the source.
3. Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgment. Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Formal office hours will be:

**Monday Wednesday - 3:00 - 5:00 and by appointment**

### **THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE COMPUTED AS FOLLOWS:**

Critical Review I	13%
Critical Review II	13%
Critical Review III	13%
Critical Review IV	13%
Critical Review V	13%
News Project	15%
Geography Exam	10%
<u>Participation in class discussion</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

### **GRADES**

A 4.00	C 2.00
A- 3.67	C- 1.67
B+ 3.33	D+ 1.33
B 3.00	D 1.00
B- 2.67	D- 0.67
C+ 2.33	F 0.00

**Deadlines** - Will be established during the first week of class. Failure to meet deadlines without a legitimate excuse will result in a failing grade.

## **Center for Student Learning**

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

## **Disability Services**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

## **College of Charleston Honor Code and 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 XF 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 X 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>