

Latin American Politics

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Fall 1997

Course Description

Basic Objectives:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the social, economic, and political development of modern Latin America. It is divided into four components: A) an overview of legacy of political development, B) an examination of the main critical contemporary issues and actors of Latin American politics, C) case studies of major countries in the region, and D) US-Latin American relations. The course aims at equipping students with some analytic perspectives for understanding contemporary Latin American politics.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is crucial. Students accumulating **FOUR** absences will lose one whole letter grade. I will circulate a signature sheet each class. If you come in after the sheet has circulated, you may attend the class, but please do not ask to sign the sheet late.

Make-Up Policy:

The only reason for which make-ups will be allowed is severe illness (documented by a physician). You can expect make-up exams to be much more difficult. Make-up will be held at professor's convenience. There will be no make-up of a missed make-up exam. Evaluation:

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There will be two tests. In each of these tests, the students will be responsible for all the materials contained in the lectures and in the assigned readings. The examination will be in essay form, although there may be some short answer questions as well. I want this class to be based as much on discussion as lectures. To that end, there will be a participation grade assigned at the end of the semester, based on your own performance.

Assignment:

Research proposal 10/6
Mid-term exam 30% 10/10
Term paper 30% 12/5
Class participation 10% ongoing
Final examination 30% 12/12

Guideline for Research Paper:

The choice of subject for the paper rests with students, as long as it deals with ONE issue of the political development of any Latin American country. If you have any doubt about appropriateness of your topic, check with me! The term paper will be due on December 5, 1997 in class and should be no less than 10 double-spaced pages, no longer than 15, not counting endnotes.

1. The quality of paper (organization and clarity of argument) counts more than its length!!!! The papers should contain a thesis statement, reasoned analysis, conclusion, and bibliography.
2. All papers must be typewritten, handwritten paper will be returned without review. Papers should show your familiarity with standard style in citation and bibliography.
3. I expect you footnote all the ideas and quotations that are not your own. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Late papers will be down-graded one full letter grade (e.g., from B to C) for each day they are

late.

4. The paper should have a separate cover page which gives the class name, your name, the topic of the research, and the date you completed the assignment. Staple your paper together in the upper left-hand corner. Each page should contain a page number as well.

5. An "A" paper is one that gets to the heart of the question; answers it directly, completely, and clearly with no wasted words, uses appropriate citations from the readings; uses proper indentation, and is free of spelling and grammatical errors.

6. It is your responsibility, not mine, to ensure that you have backup copies of your files, that your printer is working, that you have sufficient paper and a working ribbon, etc. To my mind, "My computer/printer crushed" is the equivalent of, "My dog ate my homework."

Course Reading

Readings:

Thomas Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, **Modern Latin America**, (4th edition) New York, Oxford University Press, 1997.

Michael J. Kryzaneck, **Latin America: Change and Challenge**, New York, NY: HaperCollins, 1995.

There are more than two dozen political science periodicals in the McQuade Library which you may wish to consult for your term paper or in the course of the semester. Among the most useful for this course are: Hispanic American Historical Review Latin American Research Review Journal of Inter-American Studies and World Affairs Journal of Latin American Studies

Course Schedule

I. Introduction

- W 9/3 Course Introduction: Kryzaneck, Chapter 1

II. Historical Heritage

- F 9/5 People, Places and Practices: Kryzaneck, Chapter 2
- M 9/8 From Conquest to Colony: Skidmore, 13-26
- W 9/10 Independence and Nation Building: Skidmore, 26-42
- F 9/12 Agro-export Economy & Oligarchic State: Skidmore, 43-51
- M 9/15 Import-Substituting Industrialization & Populist Pact: Skidmore, 52-58

III. Contemporary Dimensions

- W 9/17 Crisis, Debt and Democracy: Skidmore, 58-66
- F 9/19 Neoliberal Economic Experiment: Kryzaneck, Chapter 5
- M 9/22 Public Policy Making: Kryzaneck, Chapters 6 Video: "This Land Is Our Land"
- W 9/24 Population: Kryzaneck, Chapter 7
- F 9/26 Latin American Revolutions in the 1990s: Kryzaneck, Chapter 10
- M 9/29 Drugs, Money and Violence: Kryzaneck, Chapter 11
- W 10/1 Human Rights in Latin America: Kryzaneck, Chapter 12
- F 10/3 Impact of Migration: Kryzaneck, Chapter 13 & Video: "We Are Guatemalans"
- M 10/6 Environment: Kryzaneck, Chapter 14, **Proposal Due in Class**
- W 10/8 Review and Discussion
- F 10/10 **Mid-term**
- M 10/13 Columbus Day (no class)

IV. Case Studies

- W 10/15 Traditional Populist Politics: Argentina under Peron: Skidmore, Chapter 3

- F 10/17 Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Politics: Argentina: Skidmore, Chapter 3
- M 10/20 Democratic Reform Politics under Allende: Skidmore, Chapter 4
- W 10/22 From Militarism to Democracy: Chile: Skidmore, Chapter 4
Video: "Chile: Model of Success"
- F 10/24 From Vargas to Military Rule: Skidmore, Chapter 5
- M 10/27 Video: "Brazil" (Americas series)
- W 10/29 Economic and Political Reforms: Brazil: Skidmore, Chapter 5
- F 10/31 Military Revolution: Peru: Skidmore, Chapter 6
- M 11/3 Fujimori Revolution: Peru: Skidmore, Chapter 6
- W 11/5 Mexican Revolution of 1910: Skidmore, Chapter 7
- F 11/7 Authoritarian-Corporatist Politics: Mexico: Skidmore, Chapter 7
- M11/10 Video: "Murder, Corruption and Mexico"
- W 11/12 NAFTA and Technocracy in Crisis: Mexico: Skidmore, Chapter 7
- F 11/14 Fidel Castro and Revolution: Mexico: Skidmore, Chapter 8
- M11/17 Reform Today: Cuba: Skidmore, Chapter 8

V. Latin America and the World

- W 11/19 United States and Latin America: Rise of US Influence: Skidmore, Chapter 11
- F 11/21 US and Latin America: Cold War: Skidmore, Chap 11 & Kryzanek, Chap 8
Video: "School of Assassins"
- M 11/24 US and Latin America in the 1990s: Skidmore, Chap 11 & Kryzanek, Chap 9
Video: "Interview with Noriega "
- 11/26-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
- M12/1 Latin American Integration Efforts: Kryzanek, Chapter 15
- W 12/3 Oral presentation
- F 12/5 Oral presentation (continue)
Term paper due in class (can be downgraded if late)
- M12/8 Review and Discussion