

LAS 6938/CPO 6307
LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
Fall 2017

Instructor Information

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Course Overview

The course focuses on political change, democratization and social movements in Latin America. As a systematic examination of Latin American Politics, this course has several objectives: 1) to provide students with a basic foundation and understanding of some of the "core" themes in contemporary Latin American Politics; 2) to encourage students to evaluate the pertinent literature with a critical eye; and 3) to give students an appreciation of the future research problems and priorities in the field. Given the course's seminar format, students will be expected to discuss in class themes developed in the assigned readings. In order for there to be a constructive discussion, students must come to class prepared, having read assigned books or articles with a critical eye.

Required Texts (available for purchase at UF bookstores and amazon.com)

Moisés Arce, Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014.
Gianpaolo Baiocchi, et. al., Bootstrapping Democracy: Transforming Local Governance and Civil Society in Brazil, Stanford University Press, 2011.
Youssef Cohen, Radicals, Reformers and Revolutionaries, University of Chicago Press, 1994.
Raul Madrid, The Rise of Ethnic Politics in Latin America, Cambridge University Press, 2012 (Available as an ebook through the UF Libraries website).
Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe Schmitter and Laurence Whitehead eds., Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America, John Hopkins University Press, 1986.
Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions, John Hopkins University Press, 1986.
Arturo Valenzuela, The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile, John Hopkins University Press, 1978.

Course Requirements and Grading Components

Class Participation/Presentation(s)	20%
Response Papers	40%
Final Paper	40%

Class Participation/Presentation(s)

Students are expected to attend class, complete the weekly reading assignments prior to each meeting, post questions/comments on the readings on the Canvas discussion thread, and to participate actively in class discussions and exercises. Students will be appointed as discussion leaders at least once and solicit discussion questions from class members prior to class. Students are also expected to attend **two** Latin America-related events (lectures, performances, workshops, conferences) and write a one-pager for each event. Further guidelines available on the Canvas course website.

Reading Responses

During the course of the semester, students are required to hand in **five** brief (3-4 double-spaced pages) response papers, drawing from the weekly assigned readings. Be sure your response papers address the question for that week.

Final Paper

In lieu of a final exam, students will be required to write a research paper (15-25 pages) focusing on a topic related to one of the themes developed in the course. Students will report on their findings during one of the last two class meetings (November 27 or December 4), and the final paper is due on **December 11 by 5 pm**. The format should be coherent and consistent, and include a bibliography. Since this is the final product of the course, I expect a thoughtful, finely crafted essay. Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

Grading Scale

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	E	below 60

Class Policies

Attendance

This is a graduate seminar that meets once a week; students are expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading each week.

Disruptions

Class participants should make every effort to avoid behavior that may disrupt class proceedings, such as chronic tardiness or early departures, or the eruptions of mobile phones. The use of laptops or tablets in class for non-class-related purposes is frowned upon.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted pending a satisfactory explanation (documentation may be requested) but will incur the following penalties: ½ letter grade if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline; one letter grade if submitted within a week of the deadline; two letter grades if submitted more than one week after the deadline.

Emergencies

Students should inform the instructor of emergencies or events that may affect their participation in this class as soon as possible. The instructor will work with students to make up any missed assignments due to events or circumstances beyond their control. Appropriate documentation may be requested.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should register with the Disability Resource Center of the Dean of Students office, who will work with you and the instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Contact the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565, at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu or go by their office in 0020 Reid Hall.

Academic Honesty

UF Students are expected to abide by the Student Conduct Code, which may be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php>. Students should not receive unauthorized assistance in completing their assignments and should refrain from plagiarism (intellectual theft that represents the work of others as one's own). Students should not submit the same paper for more than one class. Violations will be handled accordingly.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1, August 21: Introduction

Week 2, August 28: Breakdown of Democratic Regimes

Question: Structural factors can limit the capacity of democratic regimes to manage crises, but the breakdown of democratic regimes in Latin America cannot be explained without paying attention to political processes and to the beliefs and preferences of elite actors. Discuss.

Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil," in Linz and Stepan (eds.) The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America (John Hopkins University Press, 1978). Valenzuela, all.

Cohen, all.

Optional reading: Guillermo O'Donnell, "Reflections on the Patterns of Change in the Bureaucratic Authoritarian State," Latin American Research Review 13:1 (1978), 3-38. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2502640.pdf>

Week 3: September 4: No class

Week 4, September 11: Regime Transition and Democratization

Question: Can the same approaches used to explain democratic breakdown be used to explain transitions from authoritarianism? Or would you agree with O'Donnell and Schmitter that

structural factors are even less determinant during transitions from authoritarian rule than they are during the breakdown of democratic regimes?

O'Donnell, Schmitter and Whitehead, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6.

O'Donnell and Schmitter, all.

Terry Lynn Karl, "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America," Comparative Politics (October 1990), 1-21. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/422302.pdf>

Philip J. Williams, "Dual Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Popular and Electoral Democracy in Nicaragua," Comparative Politics, Vol. 26, No. 2 (January 1994).
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/422266.pdf>

Week 5, September 18: Issues in Democratic Consolidation

Question: How do we know when Latin America democracies have become consolidated? What are the major obstacles to democratic consolidation in Latin America?

Guillermo O'Donnell, "Delegative Democracy," Journal of Democracy 5:1 (January 1994), 55-69. http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v005/5.1odonnell.pdf

[Andreas Schedler - What is Democratic Consolidation? - Journal of Democracy 9:2 \(1998\).](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v009/9.2schedler.html)

Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, "Towards Consolidated Democracies," Journal of Democracy, 7.2 (1996) 14-33: http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v007/7.2linz.html

Juan Pablo Luna and Alberto Vergara, "Latin America's Problems of Success," Journal of Democracy, Volume 27, Number 3, July 2016, pp. 158-165.

Marta Lagos Cruz-Coke, "The End of Barriers," Baker Institute, December 4, 2014:
<http://bakerinstitute.org/media/files/files/5093636c/BI-Brief-120414-Barriers.pdf>

Week 6, September 25: No class

Week 7, October 2: The Military and Democratization

Question: "There is no doubt that there is not today...the political space either internally or internationally for a military offensive against the new democracies." Do you agree or disagree?

David S. Pion-Berlin, "Political Management of the Military in Latin America," Military Review (Jan-Feb, 2005).

Thomas C. Bruneau, "Civil-Military Relations in Latin America: The Hedgehog and the Fox Revisited," Revista Fuerzas Armadas y Sociedad, Año 19 • N° 1 (2005).

Gregory Weeks, "A Preference for Deference: Reforming the Military's Intelligence Role in Argentina, Chile and Peru," Third World Quarterly 29, 1 (2008): 45-61.

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all?content=10.1080/01436590701726467>

Philip Williams and J. Mark Ruhl, "Demilitarization after Central American Civil Wars," in Peter Stearns (ed.) Demilitarization in the Contemporary World (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2013).

Final Paper Topic Due

Week 8, October 9: Democratic Institutions I - The Perils of Presidentialism?

Question: "Does it make a difference whether [Latin American] societies seek to strengthen democratic institutions according to the U.S. constitutional principle of separation of powers or to some form of European parliamentarism?"

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," Journal of Democracy, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter 1990).
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_democracy/v001/1.1linz.pdf

Matthew Shugart and Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America: Rethinking the Terms of the Debate," in (eds.) Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp. 12-54.

[Arturo Valenzuela, Latin American Presidencies Interrupted, Journal of Democracy, 15:4 \(2004\).](#)

Leiv Marsteindredet and Einar Berntzen, "Reducing the Perils of Presidentialism in Latin America through Presidential Interruptions," Comparative Politics (October 2008).

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20434106.pdf?&acceptTC=true&jpdConfirm=true>

Week 9, October 16: Democratic Institutions II - Parties and Party Systems

Question: Democracy in Latin America requires institutionalized party systems. Discuss.

Michael Coppedge, "The Evolution of Latin American Party Systems," in Politics, Society, and Democracy.

Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America, ch. 1.

Henry Dietz and David Myers, "From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru," Latin American Politics & Society 49.2 (2007).

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/latin_american_politics_and_society/v049/49.2dietz.html

J. P. Luna and D. Altman, "Uprooted but Stable: Chilean Parties and the Concept of Party System Institutionalization," Latin American Politics and Society, 53: pp. 1-28 (2011).

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/news/Summer-2011-LAPS-Luna-Altman.pdf>

Week 10, October 23: Ethnic Politics in Latin America

Question: Compare and contrast the rise and success of indigenous political parties in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. According to Madrid, what accounts for the differences?

Madrid, all **except chapter 5**.

Week 11, October 30: Resource Extraction and Protest in Peru

Question: Discuss Arce's findings regarding resource-based protest in Peru. Do you agree with his central argument that "political conditions provide a better explanation to understand the dynamics of protest movements"?

Arce, all.

Working Bibliography Due

Week 12, November 6: Participatory Democracy in Brazil

Question: What do the differing experiences with participatory budgeting teach us about the possibilities and limits of grassroots democracy?

Baiocchi, et. al., all.

Week 13, November 13: Religion and Politics in Latin America

Question: Discuss the major dimensions of change in religion and politics over the past 50 years in Latin America. Be sure to comment on the sources and significance of these changes.

Manuel Vasquez and Anna Peterson, "Progressive Catholicism in Latin America: Sources and Its Evolution from Vatican II to Pope Francis," in Virginia Garrard-Burnett, Paul Freston, and Stephen Dove (eds), The Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 2016).

David Lehmann, "The Religious Field in Latin America: Autonomy and Fragmentation," in The Cambridge History of Religions in Latin America.

Javier Arellano-Yanguas, "Religion and Resistance to Extraction in Rural Peru: Is the Catholic Church Following the People?" Latin American Research Review, Volume 49, Special Issue, 2014, pp. 61-80.

Benjamin Junge, "'The Energy of Others': Narratives of Envy and Purification among Former Grassroots Community Leaders in Porto Alegre, Brazil," Latin American Research Review, Volume 49, Special Issue, 2014, pp. 81-98.

Week 14, November 20: The Left in Latin America

Question: How do we explain the Left's political resurgence in Latin America? What are the consequences for democracy in the region?

Jorge G. Castaneda, "Latin America's Left Turn," Foreign Affairs, May/June 2006; Matthew R. Kurt Weyland, "The Rise of Latin America's Two Lefts," Comparative Politics (January 2009).

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/40599207>

Catherine M. Conaghan, "Ecuador Under Correa," Journal of Democracy, Volume 27, Number 3, July 2016, pp. 109-118.

Santiago Anria, "More Inclusion, Less Liberalism in Bolivia," Journal of Democracy, Volume 27, Number 3, July 2016, pp. 99-108.

Yannis Stavrakakis, et. al., "Contemporary Left-wing Populism in Latin America: Leadership, Horizontalism, and Postdemocracy in Chávez's Venezuela," Latin American Politics and Society 58:3, pages 51-76.

Week 15, November 27: Research Presentations (Group A)

Week 16, December 4: Research Presentations (Group B)

Papers Due: December 11