



## COLGATE UNIVERSITY

### POSC 216: COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA (Fall 2018)

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 16:30-18:00 hrs.

#### **Overview**

As an incredibly diverse region, Latin America has witnessed the emergence of successful revolutions, ruthless dictatorships, the rise and fall of mass labor movements, the surge of identity politics, and the application of a wide variety of economic development strategies. This course will seek to explore and explain these major political and economic trends in Latin America. While students are encouraged to take seriously the heterogeneous nature of the region, one of the main goals of the course is to challenge them to think analytically about social and political patterns that emerge when comparing the social and political trajectories of these countries. The course is organized around four macro-components (Colonial Legacies; Political Institutions; Political Economy; Contentious Politics), which in turn are subdivided into narrower topics. Students should leave the course with an excellent grasp of major concepts and themes in Latin American politics as well as an understanding of how to employ comparative methods to better understand political phenomena.

#### **Global Engagements Statement**

This course provides students with theoretical and methodological tools to understand processes that have a transnational character such as the legacies of colonial rule, democratization, capitalist development, and the spread of revolutions within the context of Latin America.

#### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to complete all readings for the session prior to each class and to actively participate in the discussion of the material assigned. Unexcused absences and lack of regular participation will count against the final grade. There will be a take-home mid-term exam and a cumulative final exam. Performance in the course will be evaluated as follows:

- Exams: 25% each, 50% total.
- Country Journal: 35% total.
- Class participation: 15%.

### **Late Policy**

Under certain circumstances, extensions on deadlines can be granted. The condition for this is that you **contact me in advance** to make appropriate arrangements. In absence of the latter, all late assignments will be marked down a third of a grade (example: A to A-) for every 24 hours that they are handed in after the due date.

### **Use of electronic devices**

Please note that the use of computers, cell phones, and all other technological devices is not allowed during class out of respect for everyone in the classroom. This is an interactive course that demands your attention and participation.

### **Country Journal**

Early in the semester students will select one country from the region that will serve as the basis for their journal. The journal will have one entry for every one of the macro-components covered in the course. Each entry will seek to answer the general questions that guide the exploration of the topic, as they apply to the country in question (e.g. for macro-component 2, you will ask “Is my chosen country a democracy? For how long has it been one? Does it have an authoritarian past? When and how did it democratize?” etc.). These questions will be distributed in general form to the group.

### **A few additional notes to keep in mind:**

- Good participation requires **critical engagement** with the texts. While questions and opinions will (almost) always be welcome, I expect your interventions to articulate views that either challenge or support specific arguments. Please **make sure to bring to class a printed copy of the text** that will be discussed each session.
- I strive to create a learning environment that recognizes the **uniqueness of all students**. If you have specific learning needs or requests, please contact me and I’ll be happy to look for ways to accommodate them.
- Academic honesty: All work submitted for evaluation **must be of your own authorship**. Plagiarism—the use of words or ideas of other person without proper attribution—as well as all other forms of academic dishonesty, will be referred to the University Student Conduct Board.
- Some of you may find that writing can sometimes be hard. Fortunately, the University counts with an excellent resource that may be of help: The Writing and Speaking Center in 208 Lathrop Hall offers assistance with essays for any course.

Experienced writing consultants can help native and non-native speakers alike with a written paper's focus, development, organization, clarity, citations, or grammar. Details about all meetings remain private. To make an appointment, go to: <http://www.colgate.edu/writingcenter> or call [\(315\) 228-6085](tel:3152286085).

## **Readings**

All readings will be available on Moodle.

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

### Topic 1 – Introduction to the Method and the Region

August 30th - Intro

September 4th – *What is Latin America? What is Comparative Politics?*

- Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. (2014) *Modern Latin America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (pp. 3-12)
- O'Neil, Patrick (2018). *Essentials of Comparative Politics: Fifth International Student Edition*. New York: WW Norton & Company. (pp. 3-19)

### 1) Colonial Legacies

#### Topic 2 – The Portuguese and Spanish Colonial Projects

September 6th – *Pre-Columbian Americas and the Contours of Spanish Colonization*.

- Denevan, William (1992). “The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492”. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 82(3), pp. 369-385
- Mahoney, James (2010). *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 2)

September 11<sup>th</sup> – *The Brazilian Colonial Experience*

- Skidmore, Thomas (2009). *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (ch. 1)

#### Topic 3 – Latin American States in Comparative Perspective

September 13<sup>th</sup> – *What is the state? What explains its variation?*

- Fukuyama, Francis (2004). “The Imperative of State-building”. *Journal of democracy*, 15(2): 17-31.
- Weeks, Greg (2018). *Understanding Latin American Politics*. Atkins. (Ch. 2)

September 18<sup>th</sup> – *Theorizing Latin American State Building*

- Centeno, Miguel (1997). “Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America.” *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6), 1565–605.

### 2) Political Institutions

#### Topic 4 – Political Regimes

September 20<sup>th</sup> – *Definitions and Overview*

- Dahl, Robert (1971). *Polyarchy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. (pp. 1-10)
- Weeks, Greg (2018). *Understanding Latin American Politics*. Atkins. (Ch. 3)

**\*\*September 21<sup>st</sup>—First entry of country journals due\*\***

September 25<sup>th</sup> – *Modernization and Democracy*

- Mainwaring, S., & Pérez-Liñán, A. (2003). Level of development and democracy: Latin American exceptionalism, 1945-1996. *Comparative Political Studies*, 36(9), 1031-1067.

September 27<sup>th</sup> – *Zooming in: Mexico and Chile*

- Middlebrook, Kevin (1995). *The Paradox of Revolution*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. (Ch. 1)
- Weeks, Greg (2018). *Understanding Latin American Politics*. Atkins. (Ch. 4)

**\*\*September 28<sup>th</sup> – Take-home midterm distributed\*\***

October 2<sup>th</sup> – *The Neo-Populist Challenge*

- Mazzuca, Sebastian (2013). "The rise of rentier populism." *Journal of Democracy*, 24(2), 108-122.

October 4<sup>th</sup> – *The Human Cost of Dictatorship*

- Screening of "Our Disappeared"

**\*\*October 5<sup>th</sup> – Take-home midterm due\*\***

**\*\*October 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – Midterm recess\*\***

Topic 5: Form of Government and Party System

October 11<sup>th</sup> – *Dilemmas of Institutional Choice*

- Linz, J. J. (1990). "The perils of presidentialism." *Journal of democracy*, 1(1), 51-69.
- Mainwaring, Scott and Matthew Shugart (1997). "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: a Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics*, 29(4), 449-471.

October 16<sup>th</sup> – *Overview of Parties and Party-systems*

- Gunther, Richard and Larry Diamond (2003). "Species of political parties: A new typology". *Party Politics*, 9(2), 167-199.

October 18<sup>th</sup> – *Understanding variation in Party Systems*

- Roberts, Kenneth M. (2014). *Changing Course in Latin America: Party Systems in the Neo-liberal era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 4 and 6)

### 3) Political Economy

#### Topic 6: Institutions and Development

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – *Understanding Development and its Causes*

- Sen, Amartya (1988). “The Concept of Development”, in Hollis Chenery and T.N. Srinivasan (eds.) *Handbook of Development Economics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier. (pp. 9-26)
- Acemoglu, Daron. "Root causes." *Finance & Development* 40.2 (2003): 27-43.

**\*\* Due to travel of the instructor, the movie projection originally programmed for December 6<sup>th</sup> will take place on October 25<sup>th</sup> \*\***

October 25<sup>th</sup> – *Crime, Society, Politics*

- In class projection of the movie “The city of God”

October 30<sup>th</sup> – *Postcolonial Institutions and Development*

- Mahoney, James. (2010). *Colonialism and postcolonial development: Spanish America in comparative perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (ch. 1 )

**\*\*October 26<sup>th</sup>—2nd country journal entry due\*\***

#### Topic 7: Dependency and State-led Development

November 1<sup>st</sup> – *Dependency Theory*

- Cardoso, F. H., & Faletto, E. (1979). *Dependency and development in Latin America*. Oakland: University of California Press. (pp. 8-28)

November 6<sup>th</sup> – *Import Substitution Industrialization*

- Franko, Patrice (2007). *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development*. Plymouth: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. (Chapter 3)

November 8<sup>th</sup> – *Institutional vs Policy Failure*

- Evans, “Class, State, and Dependence in East Asia: lessons for Latin Americanists”
- Rodrik, “Understanding Economic Policy Reform”

### 4) Contentious Politics

#### Topic 8: Revolutions and Social Movements

November 13<sup>th</sup> – *Corporatism and Interest Mediation*

- Vellinga, Menno (1998). *The Changing Role of the State in Latin America*. Taylor and Francis. (Ch. 1)

November 15<sup>th</sup> – *Indigenous Movements*

- Yashar, Deborah (2005). *Contesting Citizenship in Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 2)

**\*\*November 16th—3rd country journal entry due\*\***

**\*\*November 17<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving recess\*\***

November 27<sup>th</sup> – *Central American Revolutions*

- Goodwin, Jeff (2001). *No Other Way Out*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 5, pp. 142-178).

November 29<sup>th</sup> – *Cuba*

- Weeks, Greg (2018). *Understanding Latin American Politics*. Atkins. (Ch. 7)

Topic 9 – Drugs, Crime, and Politics

December 4<sup>th</sup> – *The Political Economy of Illicit Trade*

- Kingstone, Peter and Deborah J. Yashar (Eds.) (2016). *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge. (Ch. 15)

December 6<sup>th</sup> – *Contrasting Approaches*

- Lessing, Benjamin (2013). “When Business Gets Bloody: State Policy and Drug Violence” in *Small Arms Survey*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

December 11<sup>th</sup> – *Political Effects: Mexico*

- Schedler, Andreas (2014). "The Criminal Subversion of Mexican Democracy." *Journal of Democracy*, 25(1), 5-18.

December 13<sup>th</sup> – *Political Effects: Colombia*

- Bejarano, A. M., & Pizarro Leongómez, E. (2002). From “restricted” to “besieged”: The Changing Nature of the Limits to Democracy in Colombia.

**\*\*December 15<sup>th</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> country journal entry due\*\***

**\*\* FINAL EXAM \*\***

**Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 5:00 pm**