

Seminar: Political Economy of Latin America (PSCI 571)

Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania
2010 Fall Semester, Wednesdays 4:30-7:30PM
Instructor: Isabella Alcañiz
Email: ialcaniz@uh.edu

Office Hours by Appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at the Lauder Institute

This course examines key political and economic policies in Latin America over the past four decades. The seminar will be of interests to students who wish to deepen their knowledge of major events and trends in the region, such as the democratic transitions of the 1980s, the market reforms of the 1990s, and the rise of a Leftist leadership in the 2000s. Students will survey the main debates of contemporary political economy in the region. Drawing from studies in the discipline of Political Science, this course explores the interactions of political and economic actors under specific international conditions, with a particular emphasis on how the state structures, channels and negotiates the economy.

Course Requirements

Over the semester, students must:

- *Always attend class and be prepared to discuss ALL the material assigned for the week.
- *Write a short paper critiquing two or more of the assigned readings.
- *Give a brief presentation (approximately 10 minutes) at the beginning of class of the critical paper.
- *Write an even shorter paper discussing a classmate's critical paper.
- *Give a brief presentation (approximately 5 minutes) immediately after the presentation of the critical paper.
- *When not presenting critical or reaction papers, submit via email to the instructor the night before class (by 10PM) 3 critical questions based on the assigned readings. These questions must be open-ended and serve as triggers for class discussion.
- *Either take a final exam or write a research paper. When choosing the latter, students must turn in a paper proposal to the instructor by November 3.

Instructions for:

*All Assigned Readings

Students must be able to answer succinctly and clearly the following questions:

- 1) What is the author's research question?
- 2) What is the author's causal argument (or what "causal mechanisms" does s/he advance)?
- 3) What are the author's main findings?
- 4) How does the author arrive to these findings (or what methods does s/he use)?
- 5) In what larger theoretical/policy debate is the work embedded?

Readings available at www.study.net The Murillo book is available at the U Penn bookstore.

*Critical Paper

In this paper, students must discuss at least 2 of the assigned readings of the week by briefly answering the 5 questions aforementioned and offering their own critical analysis of the authors' arguments.

Students must email the paper to the instructor and the assigned discussant by 7PM the night before class.

Approximate length: 4-5 pages long.

The number of critical papers/presentations students are responsible for over the semester will be determined the first week of class.

*Discussant Paper

In this paper, discussants critically engage the argument presented in the Critical Paper. The idea is that discussants critique their fellow students' analysis (interpretation) of the assigned readings, NOT the assigned readings themselves.

Discussants will give a hardcopy of their paper to the instructor right before class.

Approximate length: 2-3 pages long.

The number of discussant papers/presentations students are responsible for over the semester will be determined the first week of class.

*Final Research Paper

To write this paper, students must begin by formulating a relevant and viable research question. The paper must offer a tentative answer (or argument) that is grounded in some of the literature covered by this seminar. Students must indicate how they plan on carrying out the necessary research to test their argument (or hypotheses), but can stop short of actual data analysis. However, the paper needs to be viable. Consequently, the student must identify the appropriate, relevant data.

Approximate length: 10 pages.

A proposal of the paper, stating the research question, a summary of the central argument, relevant data, and bibliographical sources, is due November 3.

Course Evaluation is based on the following:

30% of final grade, short papers and presentations.

30% of final grade, attendance and class participation throughout the semester.

40% of final grade, research paper or final exam.

Attendance Notice

All students are expected to attend class each and every time we meet. Only a highly contagious or severely grave disease is a valid excuse to miss class. As a significant percentage of your final grade depends on class participation, and you can only contribute to class discussion if you are present, it follows you cannot afford to be absent.

Assigned readings by week

September 8

Class Expectations and Organization.

September 15

The Latin American State Before the 1980s

North, Douglass C., William Summerhill, and Barry R. Weingast. 2000. Order, Disorder, and Economic Change: Latin America vs. North America in Governing for Prosperity. Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Hilton Root, Eds. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Ben Ross Schneider. 1999. The Desarrollista State in Brazil and Mexico in The Developmental State, Editor Meredith Woo-Cumings. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Read: Chapter 9, pp. 276-305.

Frieden, Jeffrey. 1991. Debt, Development, and Democracy: Modern Political Economy and Latin America, 1965-1985. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read: Chapter 6, pp. 178-230.

September 22

The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions (I)

Karen L. Remmer. 1991. 'Economic Crisis and Elections in Latin America, 1982-1990' American Political Science Review, 85 (3): 777-800.

Haggard and Kaufman. 1995. The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Read: Chapters 1, 2, and 6, pp. 25-74 and 183-227 (you may SKIP the section on The Philippines).

September 29

The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions (II)

Linz and Stepan. 1996. Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Read: Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14, pp. 166-230.

Stevens, Daniel, Benjamin G. Bishin, Robert R. Barr. 2006. Authoritarian Attitudes, Democracy, and Policy Preferences among Latin American Elites. American Journal of Political Science 50 (3): 606-620.

October 6

The Politics of Market-Oriented Reforms (I)

Kurt Weyland. 2002. The Politics of Market Reform in Fragile Democracies: Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Read: Chapters 2 and 3, pp.18-70.

Schamis, Hector E. 1999. Distributional Coalitions and the Politics of Economic Reform in Latin America. World Politics 51 (2): 236-268.

October 13

The Politics of Market-Oriented Reforms (II)

Kurtz, Marcus J. and Sarah M. Brooks. 2008. Embedded Neoliberal Reforms in Latin America. World Politics 60 (2): 231-280.

Teichman, Judith. 2004. The World Bank and Policy Reform in Mexico and Argentina. Latin American Politics and Society 46 (1): 39-74.

Morris Goldstein. 2003. Debt Sustainability, Brazil, and the IMF. Institute for

International Economics. At www.iie.com.

Singh, Anoop, Agnès Belaisch, Charles Collyns, Paula De Masi, Reva Krieger, Guy Meredith, and Robert Rennhack. 2005. Stabilization and reform in Latin America: A Macroeconomic Perspective on the Experience since the Early 1990s. IMF Occasional Paper 238.

October 20

The Politics of Deregulating the Public Sector

Maria Victoria Murillo. 2009. Political Competition, Partisanship, and Policy Making in Latin American Public Utilities. New York: Cambridge University Press.

October 27

Oil and the Resource Curse

Terry Lynn Karl. 1997. The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Read: Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, pp. 71-185. Recommended: page 7 and skim Chapter 3.

Richani, Nazih. 2005. Multinational Corporations, Rentier Capitalism, and the War System in Colombia. Latin American Politics and Society 47 (3): 113-144.

November 3

The Politics of Trade Liberalization

Andy Baker. 2003. Why is Trade Reform so Popular in Latin America? A Consumption-Based Theory of Trade Policy Preferences. World Politics 55 (3): 423-455.

Deborah Sick. 2008. Coffee, Farming Families, and Fair Trade in Costa Rica: New Markets, Same Old Problems? Latin American Research Review 43 (3): 193-208.

Beatriz Magaloni. 2008. Partisan Cleavages, State Retrenchment, and Free Trade: Latin America in the 1990s. Latin American Research Review 43 (2): 107-135.

Malamud, Andrés. 2005. Presidential Diplomacy and the Institutional Underpinnings of MERCOSUR: An Empirical Examination. Latin American Research Review 40 (1): 138-164.

November 10

Welfare Politics

Robert R. Kaufman and Alex Segura-Ubiergo. 2001. Globalization, Domestic Politics, and Social Spending in Latin America: A Time-Series Cross-Section Analysis, 1973-97. World Politics 53 (4): 553-587.

Erik Wibbels and Moisés Arce. 2003. Globalization, Taxation, and Burden-Shifting in Latin America. International Organization 57 (1): 111-136.

Avelino, George, David S. Brown, and Wendy Hunter. 2005. The Effects of Capital Mobility, Trade Openness, and Democracy on Social Spending in Latin America, 1980-1999. American Journal of Political Science 49 (3): 625-641.

November 17

Blaming the Economy: Protest Votes

Benton, Allyson Lucinda. 2005. Dissatisfied Democrats or Retrospective Voters? Economic Hardship, Political Institutions, and Voting Behavior in Latin America. Comparative Political Studies 38 (4): 417-442.

Alcañiz, Isabella and Timothy Hellwig (Forthcoming). Who's to Blame? The Distribution of Responsibility in Developing Democracies. British Journal of Political Science.

Coppedge, Michael. 2005. Explaining Democratic Deterioration in Venezuela Through Nested Inference. Chapter 10, pp. 289-316. In The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America. Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring, Editors. New York: Cambridge University Press.

November 24

The Politics of Anti-Neoliberalism

Silva, Eduardo. 2009. Challenging Neoliberalism in Latin America. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Read: Chapter 5, pp. 103-146.

Arce, Moises. 2008. "The Repolitization of Collective Action After Neoliberalism in Peru" Latin American Politics and Society 50 (3): 37-62.

Auyero, Javier. 2003. Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women, Two Protests, and the Quest for Recognition. Durham: Duke University Press.

Read: Chapter 1, pp. 17-47.

December 1

The Rise of Brazil, the Regional Giant

Robert H. Bates. 1997. Open Economy Politics: The Political Economy of the World Coffee Trade. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Read: Chapter 2, pp. 26-50.

Brainard, Lael and Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, Editors. 2009. Brazil as an Economic Superpower? Understanding Brazil's Changing Role in the Global Economy. Washington D.C.: The Brookings Institute.

Read: Chapters 2, 6, and 7, pp. 17-54; 137-158; and 159-186.

December 8

The New Leftist Leadership

Castañeda, Jorge and Marco A Morales. 2007. The Left Turn Continues. Brown Journal of World Affairs 13 (2): 201-210.

Corrales, Javier. 2010. The Repeating Revolution: The Political Economy of Venezuela under Hugo Chávez. Forthcoming in Latin America's Leftist Governments. Kurt Weyland, Wendy Hunter and Raúl Madrid, Editors. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Arditi, Benjamin . 2008. Arguments about the Left Turns in Latin America: A Post-Liberal Politics? Latin American Research Review 43 (3): 59-81

Final Exam: December week 15