

POLITICAL SCIENCE 353U: INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

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Office Hours: Friday, 12:30-2:00 (or by appt.)

Winter 2018

MWF: 10:15-11:20

Room: Ondine 201

Website: <http://web.pdx.edu/~mev/>

Objectives and Approach:

This course is an introduction to the dynamic and fascinating political landscape of countries in Latin America. We begin with an examination of the processes of democratization of the states in this region, with particular attention given to Chile (due to their successful transition) and Venezuela (because of their slide into authoritarianism). Next, we consider the formal institutions of the states in Latin America, and then turn to the impact of the international sphere on politics in this region. Several states, including Argentina and Guatemala, are our case studies for this segment. Finally, we consider issues of representation in this region, with a particular focus on women and indigenous populations.

Course Assignments and Grading:

20%= quizzes

10%= class participation

30%= paper

40%= final exam (take-home)

Class attendance is required, and attendance will be taken periodically. You are expected to do the reading for each week and be prepared to discuss the reading in lecture.

A note about the quizzes: six quizzes will be given during this course, none of which will be announced in advance. There will be **no make-ups** for these quizzes, but only five of your quiz grades will count in compiling your course grade. In other words, one quiz is free- you can miss it or fail it, and there will be no penalty to your grade. The quiz questions will be relatively simple, and will be designed to test whether or not you completed the readings assigned for that day.

The paper is described fully in the paper assignment sheet, but do note that you must turn in a paper copy of your paper on either January 24, February 9, February 23, or March 12. Please- no emailed submissions, only printed-out paper copies. Also, I will **not accept** a late paper. Our discussion in class on the paper due dates will essentially focus on the paper topic, so writing a paper on the book after you've heard our discussion would not be fair to those who completed the paper on time. Again, while you can choose to turn in your paper on any of the four dates above, you cannot submit a paper late- I will not accept it.

The final exam is a take-home paper, typically 7-10 pages long. The exam instructions will be distributed on the last day of class, and a paper copy of your exam is due on March 20.

Required Reading:

The following books have been ordered by the PSU bookstore- all readings are required.

1. *Democracy in Latin America*, Smith (3rd Edition)
2. *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina*, Blustein
3. *Comandante: Hugo Chávez's Venezuela*, Carroll
4. *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*, Constable & Valenzuela
5. *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*, Schlesinger and Kinzer, Revised Edition from 2005

In addition to these books, several of our readings are recent newspaper/magazine articles on our case studies. These are marked "WEB" and are available from my website (<http://web.pdx.edu/~mev/>).

Academic Honesty:

Fair and effective education requires academic honesty, and any violation is a very serious matter. PSU rules concerning academic dishonesty are spelled out in the General Catalog. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and no collaboration with any other person is permitted. In-class tests are *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. These rules will be strictly enforced. Any academic dishonesty will without exception be reported to the student's dean for disciplinary action.

Class Schedule:

Mon, January 8: Introduction and logistics

(Begin reading *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*)

Wed, January 10: Democracy in Latin America- Overview

Smith, Introduction & Chapter 1

Fri, January 12: Democracy in Latin America- Overview (continued)

WEB: *Economist* Article "Cleaning up Latin American Democracy"

Mon, January 15: No Class (University Closed for MLK Day)

Wed, January 17: Military Rule

Smith, Chapter 3

WEB: *Economist* Article "Of Soldiers and Citizens"

Fri, January 19: Cuba

WEB: *Economist* Article "Inequality- Cuba"

WEB: *New York Times* Article: "In Rickety Boats, Cuban Migrants Again Flee to US"

Mon, January 22: Regime Change in Latin America

Smith, Chapter 2

Wed, January 24: Regime Change in Chile (paper 1)
A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet (Entirety)
 (Begin reading *Comandante: Hugo Chávez's Venezuela*)

Fri, January 26: Chile
 WEB: *Economist* Article "An Anxious Role Model"
 WEB: *New York Times* Article: "On Election Day, Latin America Willingly Trades..."

Mon, January 29: Institutions: Executive
 Smith, Chapter 5

Wed, January 31: Institutions: Executive (continued)
 WEB: Morgenstern, Scott, John Polga-Hecimovich, and Sarah Shair-Rosenfield. 2013.
 "Tall, Grande, or Venti: Presidential Powers in the United States and Latin America." *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 5.2: 37-70.

Fri, February 2: Institutions: Elections & Parties
 Smith, Chapter 6

Mon, February 5: Institutions: Elections & Parties (continued)
 Smith, Chapter 7

Wed, February 7: Institutions: Elections & Parties (continued)
 WEB: *Economist* Article "How the Other Half Votes"
 WEB: Gonzalez Ocantos, Ezequiel, Chad Kiewiet Jonge, and David W. Nickerson. 2014.
 "The Conditionality of Vote-Buying Norms: Experimental Evidence from Latin America." *American Journal of Political Science* 58.1: 197-211.

Fri, February 9: Authoritarian Rule in Venezuela (paper 2)
Comandante: Hugo Chávez's Venezuela (Entirety)
 (Begin Reading: *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina*)

Mon, February 12: Venezuela
 WEB: *Economist* Article: Venezuela's Economy: Of Oil and Coconut Water"
 WEB: *New York Times* Article: "Venezuela's Two Legislatures Duel..."

Wed, February 14: Catch-up/Make-up Day
 (no new readings)

Fri, February 16: Freedoms and Rights
 Smith, Chapter 10

Mon, February 19: Policy and the Role of the State
 Smith, Chapter 8

WEB: *New York Times* Article “Grand Visions Fizzle in Brazil”

Wed, February 21: International Realm Overview
Smith, Chapter 4

Fri, February 23: Impact of the International Realm in Argentina (paper 3)
And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out): Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina (Entirety)
(Begin reading *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*)

Mon, February 26 Argentina
WEB: *Economist* Article “At Last”
WEB: *New York Times* OpEd “What Obama Should Know About Macri’s Argentina”

Wed, February 28: (Movie: *Presunto Culpable*)
(No readings)

Fri, March 2: (Movie- Continued)
(No readings)

Mon, March 5: Mexico
WEB: *New York Times* Article “Why Cartels are Killing Mexico’s Mayors”

Wed, March 7: Political Culture and Protest
Smith, Chapter 11

Fri, March 9: Social Groups and Equity
Smith, Chapter 9

Mon, March 12: Guatemala Yesterday (paper 4)
Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala (entirety)

Wed, March 14: Guatemala Today
WEB: *New York Times* Article “Guatemala President Who Championed Honesty Orders Anticorruption Panel Chief Out”

Fri, March 16: Future of Democracy in Latin America
Smith, Chapter 12 and Epilogue

Tuesday, March 20: Final Exam Due

A paper copy of your final exam must be submitted to my mailbox by 4pm on this day. Instructions for content will be distributed in week 10.