COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA
POLITICS 367
FALL 2004

Professor Deborah Yashar
Office: Bendheim 219
Time: Monday, Wednesday 11:00-11:50
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Preceptors:
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Course Description:

Latin America has experienced dramatic political and economic changes over the past 50 years. Politically, it has witnessed swings between democratic and military rule. Economically, it has moved from state-led to market-driven development policies. Socially, it has evolved from a society with strong and powerful labor unions and even revolutionary movements, to one in which traditional social movements have lost much of their momentum but ethnic movements have become increasingly consequential. This course will analyze and explain these political, economic, and social developments by focusing on two themes – democracy and development. We will evaluate competing theoretical approaches to the region by analyzing these theories in light of the political trajectories of six Latin American cases: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, and Peru.

The course is organized as follows:

Part I: Development and the Growth of the State: This section introduces competing theoretical approaches that seek to explain why development has been so elusive and uneven in Latin America. We analyze these approaches in the context of the region’s state-led development policies.

Part II: Democracy and Authoritarianism: Addressing the Social Question: This section analyzes the emergence of a vocal and organized civil society – focusing on the working class – that starts to demand greater political inclusion and economic justice. We discuss various state responses to these demands for inclusion – including moves towards socialism and the breakdown of democracy.

Part III: Markets and Democracy Revisited: This section analyzes theories of democratization and marketization in the context of a region-wide return to both in the 1980s and 1990s. Cuba remains the exception.

Part IV: Conclusion: Where Do We Stand Today?: The final week identifies the current challenges for Latin America, focusing on the six countries discussed in this course.
Course Requirements: There are three basic requirements for the class.

1. Participation in Precept: (20%)
   The precept depends on active and ongoing participation by all class members. Everyone enrolled in the class is expected to complete the readings and discuss them on a weekly basis.

   Each week 1-2 students will take responsibility for presenting some portion of the readings. This includes writing a 2-page synopsis of the readings that a) lays out the main argument(s), b) indicates what you found provocative and/or mundane, and c) poses questions for class discussion. These handouts will be distributed via email to the rest of the class the day before your precept is scheduled. In precept, you will then make an informal 5-minute presentation designed to initiate focused and critical discussion of the readings.

   Precept assignments will be determined during the first week of classes.

2. Two 7-8 Page Papers: Based on assigned readings (40%)
   First Paper is due on Monday, October 18 by 11 AM.

   Second Paper is due Monday, November 22 by 11 AM.

3. Final Take-Home Exam: (40%)
   Due on January 14 by 3:30 PM.
   Where to Turn in Exams: You should turn in all exams to Edna Lloyd (318 Bendheim) by 3:30 PM.

Late Policy: All late papers and exams will be marked down a third of a grade for each day following the due date. Exceptions will only be granted for extenuating medical circumstances. You should contact your preceptor ASAP, if you confront such circumstances.
Course Materials: Readings and Films

Reserve: Most readings are articles and excerpts from books. These readings are available through electronic course reserves (accessed online through Blackboard and the library homepage). The userid is “pol367” and the password is “evita.” Note that the userid and passwords are case-sensitive, so do not capitalize.

Books will also be on reserve at Firestone.

Purchasing Books: You can purchase the following required books at the U-Store.


Recommended Readings:

- Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith. Modern Latin America. This book is the classic reference book on the region. It is not required reading however it is very strongly recommended. If you want a summary overview of the region and of the individual cases, this book is the one to look at first. It can be purchased at the U-Store.

Jorge I. Domínguez and Abraham F. Lowenthal, eds., *Constructing Democratic Governance: Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s -- Themes and Issues*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. This book is now out of print, although you might be able to get a copy at the U-Store (since an order was placed). It includes several very strong thematic chapters, several of which are used in this course.

I highly recommend two weekly reports: the *Latin America Weekly Report* and/or *Latinamerica Press*. The former focuses on national politics and economics and the latter on popular movements and subnational politics. I also highly recommend the quarterly, NACLA’s *Report on the Americas*. NACLA publishes contemporary and short pieces on issues confronting the region (i.e., free trade, truth commissions, guerrilla movements, etc.) The *Economist* also provides timely, although more sporadic, coverage.

**Films:** Several required films will be available online for this course only. You should be able to access them through the Blackboard website for this course. You can view them at computer clusters, only.

**Program in Latin American Studies (PLAS) – 58 Prospect Avenue**

Princeton’s Program in Latin American Studies offers a certificate in Latin American Studies. If you are interested in pursuing a certificate, please contact Rosalia Rivera at PLAS (rrivera@princeton.edu) to discuss the program and requirements. The program also hosts events throughout the year – including a weekly Tuesday seminar at noon (lunch is provided) and various academic seminars and cultural events. Upcoming events are listed online at www.princeton.edu/plas.
Part I
Development & the Growth of the State

WEEK 1: Introduction or Travelogue (September 13, 15)


WEEK 2: Competing Visions and Paths Towards Development


Recommended:


Part II
Democracy and Authoritarianism:
Addressing the Social Question

Week 3: Dealing with the Social Question: Labor, Populism, and Corporatism (September 27, 29)


FILM: Evita
Week 4: Radical Responses: Cuba (the revolutionary road to socialism) and Chile (the parliamentary road to socialism) (October 4, 6)


FILM: Before Night Falls

Recommended:


**Week 5: The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes (October 11, 13)**


President Salvador Allende Sept 11, 1973, Radio Magalles 9:10 AM – to be distributed in class.


FILM: See Either Battle for Chile (parts I and II) or Rojo Amanecer

**1st PAPER DUE MONDAY, October 18 by 11 AM (before class)**
Week 6: Military Rule (October 18, 20)


Peter Kornbluh. The Pinochet File. Chapters 3-5 (153-396 – 155 pages of documents)


FILM: Missing

Recommended:


Kiss of the Spider Woman (Film)

October 23-31: Fall Break
Part III: Markets and Democracy Revisited

Week 7: The Transition from Authoritarian Rule: Pacts and Ruptures (November 1, 3)


Recommended


Week 8: From Debt Crisis to Neoliberal Reforms: Rethinking the States' Role (November 8, 10)


Recommended:


Kenneth M. Roberts. “Neoliberalism and the Transformation of Populism in Latin America.” World Politics 48, no.1, (October 95) pp.82 (35).


Week 9: Building Democratic Institutions (November 15, 17)


Recommended


2nd Paper Due November 22 by 11 AM (before class)

Week 10: Truth, Justice, and Memory (November 22, 24)


**FILM**: The Official Story

**Recommended:**


NACLA. Report on the Americas. XXXIV, No. 1 (July/August 2000): Rethinking Human Rights. Read the following articles:
Week 11: Civil Society Emergent? (November 29 and December 1)


Barry Bearak. “Poor Man’s Burden.” NYT Sunday Magazine, June 27, 2004. (will be posted online)


FILM: A Place Called Chiapas

Recommended:


Conclusion

Week 12: (December 6, 8): Where Do We Stand Today?

Jorge I. Domínguez and Michael Shifter, eds., *Constructing Democratic Governance*, 2003, Read
- Read 3 of the following 5 Country Chapters (chapters 10-14)


Jorge G. Castañeda. “NAFTA at 10: A Plus or Minus?”

Michael Shifter.” The US and Latin America through the Lens of Empire.”


Recommended


**TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE January 14, 2005**