

**Political Development in Latin America
Introduction to Latin American Society
POLS/LAS/SOC 354, Spring 2015
(M, W, F 3:00– 3:50p.m; CTLB 210)**

Professor: Sara Niedzwiecki

Office Hours: M 4:00-6:00p.m, F 4:00-5:00p.m or by appointment

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Course Overview and Objectives

This course offers an overview of Latin American politics and development. It targets students who seek to understand how Latin American societies and governments function and what major challenges these countries are facing. By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify the diverse and historically contingent contexts of Latin American countries in terms of their levels of economic development, their quality of democracy, their systems of government, and their human welfare. The class will emphasize four periods and their legacies: (1) populist politics and initial industrialization since the 1930s, (2) the emergence of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s and 1970s, (3) transitions to democracy and economic liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s, and (4) the commodity boom and “new left” of the 2000s. In addition, we will discuss thematic topics such as gender and indigenous politics, and social policies, poverty, and inequality.

The course will emphasize both general trends in the region and deeper knowledge of specific countries, through comparative case studies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela. The overarching question that we will aim to answer throughout this course is: “Which economic factors shape politics and societies, and how does politics, in turn, shape economic outcomes?” The only prerequisite for taking this course is a general curiosity about Latin American politics.

The course will meet three times a week. Class meetings will mix interactive lectures and discussion of the assigned readings. Students need to come prepared for a critical discussion of the assigned readings. These discussions, together with written assignments, aim at developing the students’ ability to think critically and communicate these ideas effectively.

In addition to these specific course objectives, this course also aims to achieve the Political Science Department’s approved student learning objectives for the undergraduate program, which are listed in: <http://polisci.unm.edu/undergraduate-program/student-learning-objectives.html>

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Course Requirements

1) Class attendance and participation (20%)

The requirements for the course are first and foremost regular class attendance, reading of the assigned materials, completing that week's activity, and active participation. You will have numerous opportunities to participate during interactive lectures, discussion sessions, and activities. Volunteering to participate in in-class activities such as structured debates and role-playing will positively affect your participation grade.

In order to facilitate an engaging session, students are required to complete the assigned readings before class. If I sense that students are unprepared for class, I reserve the right to give pop-quizzes. The grades on such quizzes would count toward your participation.

During discussions, we will be thinking through complicated and controversial issues together. In order to create a positive atmosphere for everyone to participate, please respect one another and the instructor. Differences of opinion are likely and desirable when discussing political issues, and this can provide an opportunity for intellectual development.

In order to facilitate an active and collaborative environment, I do not allow laptops, tables, or phones in class. This is a highly participatory course that requires your undivided attention. Exceptions will be made only if a student demonstrates a clear academic need for one of these devices.

Each student should attend office hours at least once during the semester, either to introduce themselves or to discuss their paper topic and questions related to the course. If you have any personal issues with or during the course that negatively impact your productivity, please communicate them with me. I am willing to work with you to help you succeed, but I cannot do so retroactively at the end of the semester.

2) Analytic Paper (30%)

Each student will write a research paper on a topic of their choice. I will also provide a list of possible topics. The paper must be written for this course only. On **March 6**, students will submit their paper topic and a one-page outline at the beginning of class. The final paper will be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced, with 1.25" margins and a standard 12-point font (Courier is not acceptable). Papers are due at the beginning of class on **April 3**. Late papers will be penalized by one letter grade per day late.

Analytic papers should be a thoughtful discussion of the topic of choice, and therefore clearly organized and argued. In the introduction, students should include a thesis statement as well as a map of the whole argument. The introduction should be followed by a clear development of the argument, supported by evidence, and finally a conclusion that summarizes the main points of the paper and may open new questions. Your goal in this paper should be to convince the reader of a particular argument with relevant sources. The Writing Center is a great resource: <http://caps.unm.edu/writing/about/undergrad>

3) Midterm (20%) and Final Exams (30%)

The mid-term will be held during class on Wednesday, **February 25**, and the final exam will occur on **Tuesday, May 5 from 3:00 to 5:00pm**. The final exam is cumulative but weighted toward the second half of the course. Both exams will consist of questions on the lectures, readings and class discussions throughout the semester. The exams are closed everything – books, notes, neighbors. No make-up tests will be given unless a student makes prior arrangements with the instructor or offers written proof of a medical visit.

Grades for the course will be based on the following percentages for each of these requirements:

	Grade	Deadline
Class Discussion	20%	
Midterm	20%	February 25
Analytic Paper	30%	March 6 (topic 5%) and April 3 (paper 25%)
Final Exam	30%	May 5, 3:00-5:00pm

Percentage Earned	Letter Grade
99.0-100	A+
95.0 to 98.9	A
91.0 to 94.9	A-
87.0 to 90.9	B+
83.0 to 86.9	B
79.0 to 82.9	B-
75.0 to 78.9	C+
71.0 to 74.9	C
67.0 to 70.9	C-
63.0 to 66.9	D+
59.0 to 62.9	D
55.0 to 58.9	D-
Below 55.0	F

Grade dispute: You can dispute your grade only 48 hours after you have received your exam or paper back. After this time, you can contact me to set an appointment or you can come to office hours. In each case you should come with one paragraph explaining the specific aspects of the grade you don't agree with. If a student requests a second review, the professor reserves the right to raise or lower this grade according to her discretion.

Academic Honesty: For tests, assignments, and other academic activities, each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Refer to Regent's Policy Manual – Section 4.8: Academic Dishonesty (<http://policy.unm.edu/regents-policies/section-4/4-8.html>)

Required Course Book

Skidmore, Thomas E., Peter Smith, and James Green. *Modern Latin America*. Seventh Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. (This book is available for purchase at UNM Bookstore or online, e.g.: Amazon)

In addition to the required book, other readings are posted on UNM Learn.

Note: Readings must be completed for the assigned dates.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 – Introduction to the study of Latin America

M – Jan. 12 Introduction and Class Organization

W – Jan. 14 Introduction to the Study of Latin America

Activity to turn in: review the syllabus and write one-paragraph on what you believe will be the most challenging aspect of the course for you and how you will prepare or anticipate for that challenge.

- Skidmore, Smith, and Green. *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 1 (pp. 3-13)

F – Jan. 16 Introduction to Political Development in Latin America

- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 13 (pp. 376-393)

Week 2 – Politics of Development I: Democracy and ISI

M – Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; no classes

W – Jan. 21 Import-Export Model and Import Substitution Industrialization

- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 12 (pp. 351-368)

F – Jan. 23 Import Substitution Industrialization and Populism

- Cardoso, Eliana, and Ann Helwege. “Import Substitution Industrialization.” In *Modern Political Economy and Latin America: Theory and Policy*. Edited by Jeffrey Frieden, Manuel Pastor and Michael Tomz, 155–64, 2000.

Week 3 –Politics of Development II: Neoliberalism and Its Consequences

- M – Jan. 26 Neoliberalism
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 12 (pp. 368-375)
 - Williamson, John. “What Washington Means by Policy Reform.” In *Modern Political Economy and Latin America: Theory and Policy*. 18–23, 2000.
- W – Jan. 28 Consequences of Neoliberal Reforms
- Weyland, Kurt. “Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record.” *Latin American Politics & Society* 46, no. 1 (2004): 135–57.
 - Huber, Evelyne, and Fred Solt. “Successes and Failures of Neoliberalism.” *Latin American Research Review* 39, no. 3 (2004): 150–64.
- F – Jan. 30 Film *Life and Debt*

Week 4 – Political Regimes in Latin America: Authoritarianism and Democracy

- M – Feb. 2 Cycles of Political Change in Latin America
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 13 (pp. 376-393)
 - Collier, David. “Introduction.” In *The New authoritarianism in Latin America*. Edited by David Collier, 3–16, 1979.
- W – Feb. 4 Democratization
- Schmitter, Philippe, and Terry L. Karl. “What Democracy is...And is Not.” In *Essential Readings in Comparative Politics*. Edited by Patrick H. O’Neil and Ronald Rogowski. 203–12, 2013.
- F – Feb. 6 *In-Class Activity: Simulation of Transition Negotiation*
- Karl, Terry L. “Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America.” *Comparative Politics* 23, no. 1 (1990): 1–21.

Week 5 – Human Rights, Quality of Democracy, and Writing your Research Paper

- M – Feb. 9 Human Rights and Transitional Justice
- Sikkink, Kathryn, and Carrie B. Walling. “The Impact of Human Rights Trials in Latin America.” *Journal of Peace Research* 44, no. 4 (2007): 427–45.
- W – Feb. 11 Library Resources for your Research Paper
- F – Feb. 13 Quality of Democracy and How to Write a Research Paper
- Levine, Daniel, and José E. Molina. “Evaluating the Quality of Democracy in Latin America.” In *The Quality of Democracy in Latin America*. Edited by Daniel H. Levine and José E. Molina, 1–19. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2011.
 - O’Donnell, Guillermo A. “Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies.” *Journal of Democracy* 9, no. 3 (1998): 112–26. [selected sections]
- Activity to hand in: Bring a written paragraph explaining the topic and country you are interested in researching for your final paper.

Week 6: Party Systems, the “left turn”, and Venezuela

- M – Feb. 16 Party Systems
- Mainwaring, Scott, and Timothy R. Scully. “Introduction.” In *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Edited by Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, 1–34. California: Stanford University Press, 1995.
- W – Feb. 18 The Rise of the Left
- Weyland, Kurt. “The Rise of Latin America's Two Lefts: Insights from Rentier State Theory.” *Comparative Politics* 41, no. 2 (2009): 145–64.
- F – Feb. 20 Venezuela
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 8 (pp. 230-243)

Week 7: Midterm and the Left Turn

- M – Feb. 23 Review for the Midterm
Activity: please bring questions to discuss in class.
- W – Feb. 25 Midterm

W – February 25: Midterm

- F – Feb. 27 Film: *South of the Border*

Week 8— Argentina

- M – Mar. 2 Argentina I: Populism and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 9 (pp.244-277)
- W – Mar. 4 Argentina II: Transition to Democracy and Human Rights
- *Nunca Mas: The Report of the Argentine National Commission on the Disappeared*. Buenos Aires: Argentine National Commission on Disappeared, 1986. Available at: http://www.desaparecidos.org/nuncamas/web/english/library/nevagain/nevagain_001.htm (links to following pages on website, skim as much as you can)
- F – Mar. 6 Argentina III: Neoliberalism, 2001 Crisis, and the left turn
- Levitsky, Steven, and Maria V. Murillo. “Argentina: From Kirchner to Kirchner.” *Journal of Democracy* 19, no. 2 (2008): 16–30.

Paper topic due date: submit your paper topic and a 1-page outline

Week 9 – (March 9, 11, 13) – No Class; Spring Break

Week 10– Brazil

- M – Mar. 16 Brazil I: Populism, Bureaucratic Authoritarianism, and Transition to Democracy
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 11 (pp. 306-348)
- W – Mar. 18 Brazil II: Neoliberalism, Lula, and the left turn in Brazil
- Joyce, Helen. “Grounded.” *The Economist*, September 28, 2013.
- F – Mar. 20 *No classes held. We will schedule individual meetings on paper topics instead.*

Week 11 – Chile

- M – Mar. 23 Chile I: Restricted Democracy, Democratic Socialism, and the Pinochet Regime
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 10 (pp. 290-305), from “The Era of Party Politics” to the end of the chapter
- W – Mar. 25 Film: *The Judge and the General*
- Constable, Pamela, and Arturo Valenzuela. *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*. New York, London: Norton, 1991. Chapter 12 (pp. 296-320)
- F – Mar. 27 Democracy and Social Reform
- Huber, Evelyne, Jennifer Pribble, and John D. Stephens. “The Chilean Left in Power: Achievements, Failures, and Omissions.” In *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings*. Edited by Wendy Hunter, Raúl L. Madrid and Kurt G. Weyland, 77–97, 2010.

Week 12 –Mexico

- M – Mar. 30 Mexico I: Revolution and the PRI
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 3 (pp. 52-81)
- W – Apr. 1 Mexico II: Neoliberalism, Democratization, and Contestation
- Schedler, Andreas. “The Democratic Revelation.” *Journal of Democracy* 11, no. 4 (2000): 5–19.
- F – Apr. 3 Federalism and Subnational Authoritarianism
- Snyder, R. “After the State Withdraws: Neoliberalism and Subnational Authoritarian Regimes.” In *Subnational Politics and Democratization in Mexico*. pp. 295–311, 334-336 (Note: you do not need to read all the pages in the chapter)

Final papers due: hand in a hard copy of your paper at the beginning of class

Week 13 –Indigenous Politics, Autonomy, and Bolivia

- M – Apr. 6 Indigenous Politics and Bolivia
- Yashar, Deborah J. “Indigenous Politics in the Andes: Changing Patterns of Recognition, Reform and Representation.” In *The Crisis of Democratic Representation in the Andes*, 2006. Edited by Scott P. Mainwaring, Ana M. Bejarano and Eduardo P. Leongómez, 257–84.
 - Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, part of Chapter 6 (pp. 173-183)
- W – Apr. 8 Film: *Cocalero* (UNC)
- F – Apr. 10 Invited Speaker: Dr. Kency Cornejo

Week 14 – US-Latin America Relations and Cuba

- M – Apr. 13 US-Latin American Relations
- Schoultz, Lars. “Latin America and the United States.” In *Latin America after Neoliberalism: Turning the Tide in the 21st Century?* Edited by Eric Hershberg and Fred Rosen, 49–71. New York: New Press, 2006.
- W – Apr. 15 Cuban Revolution
- Skidmore, Smith and Green. *Modern Latin America*, parts of Chapter 5 (pp.128-149)
- F – Apr. 17 Cuba Today: Rethinking US policy
- *The Economist*. “Revolution in Retreat.” March 24, 2012.
 - *The New York Times*. “U.S. and Cuba, in Breakthrough, Will Resume Diplomatic Relations.” December 17, 2014.

Week 15 –Poverty, Inequality, Social Policies, and Gender Politics

- M – Apr. 20 Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy in Latin America
- Huber, Evelyne, and Juan A. Bogliaccini. “Development and Reforms of Latin American Welfare States.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State*. Edited by Francis G. Castles, 644–55, 2010.
- M – Apr. 22 Social Policies and Decentralization in Latin America
- Niedzwiecki, Sara. “Multilevel Social Policies and Partisan Alignments: Cash Transfers and Healthcare in Argentina and Brazil.” Draft, 2015.
- F – Apr. 24 Gender Politics
- Franceschet, Susan, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. “Gender Quotas and Women's Substantive Representation: Lessons from Argentina.” *Politics & Gender* 4, no. 3 (2008): 393–425.

Week 16 –Field-Research and Review for Final

M – Apr. 27 Conducting Field Research in Latin America
- “Symposium: Field Research.” *Qualitative Methods: Newsletter of the American Political Science Association Organized Section on Qualitative Methods* 2, no. 1 (2004): 2–14.

W – Apr. 29 Review Session

F – May 1 Review Session
Activity: please bring questions to discuss in class

Tuesday, May 5 from 3:00 to 5:00pm: Final Exam