

Politics of The Global South: Latin America

Poli238, Fall 2020

1:20 pm- 2:10 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Virtual

Instructor: Claire Dunn

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00-12:30pm or by appointment

Office: Zoom!

Email: cedunn13@live.unc.edu

Course Description

Objectives:

This course provides an overview of the study of Latin American politics including major issues in the political and economic development of the region. No prior knowledge of the region or the study of comparative politics is required. While this course focuses on Latin America, we will also situate our discussion in wider political debates and introduce a comparative dimension when possible.

The first half of this course will focus on the historical, economic, and political development of Latin America while the second half will focus more heavily on democratic governance and contemporary challenges facing the region. Case studies will be used throughout the course in order to demonstrate how different phenomena have played out in particular country contexts.

Organization:

This course will be 100% online. Sakai will be a critical resource for this class. You will find course materials including reading assignments and lectures on our Sakai page as well as will be expected to complete assignments such as unit quizzes and discussion board posts here.

This class will mix synchronous and asynchronous learning. We are scheduled to meet three days a week. *We will meet synchronously (on Zoom) for our Monday sessions to facilitate discussion and give you the opportunity to ask questions.* Our Wednesday and Friday sessions will be conducted asynchronously to give you the most flexibility possible in these unusual times.

Requirements:

This course is designed to provide you extra flexibility. Do not interpret this flexibility to mean that you can get by without doing the work. I still expect you to keep up and thoughtfully engage with course material. You will be evaluated in this course through a variety of assignments. First, you will have short quizzes for each section of the course. These quizzes will be taken on

Sakai. Second, you will be expected to post in the Sakai discussion boards. More details are provided below. Third, students will engage in a large research project resulting in a 10-page research paper. Details of each assignment are provided below.

Required Texts:

You should purchase the textbook *Modern Latin America* by Peter H. Smith, James N. Green, and Thomas E. Skidmore, 9th edition, 2018. This text is available through the student stores and is also available in an e-book format. Any additional texts will be made available through the course Sakai site.

Guidelines:

- We will hold one synchronous session a week. You are expected to attend this session every week. When we meet synchronously, please join the class zoom on time. Late arrival disrupts class just as it does in an in-person setting. Students should mute themselves unless they are speaking in order to avoid excess background noise that can be a distraction. I will not require cameras to be on as I am aware this can cause connectivity problems for some. When you speak, however, it would be great if you would turn on your camera.
- Assignments on Sakai including quizzes and discussion board posts will have deadlines. Make sure you complete them prior to the posted deadline.
- You will be asked to engage with each other through discussion in Sakai. Please be respectful in how you interact with your classmates. Students may have differing opinions on subjects and, while I encourage you to engage in debates over the issues at hand, you should do so respectfully.
- Please use proper etiquette when emailing me. Look over the syllabus before asking an administrative question. Many answers are easily found within this document. Please also manage your time wisely. During the week, I will do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours. My response may be a bit slower on weekends. I cannot guarantee responses to last-minute questions.
- Virtual learning is still new to us and we should expect that we may need to make adjustments as we go. I will do my best to maintain open communication with you and expect the same from you. We will work together to find solutions to any problems that come up as we go. Early communication is a good way to avoid making simple problems snowball into major problems.

Grading

Grade Components:

Section Quizzes.....40%

- 4 quizzes worth 10% each

Discussion Posts.....15%

- 6 topics worth 2.5% each

Research Paper..... 30%

- 10-page final paper worth 20%
- Intermediate assignments worth 10% (3.3% each)

Final Exam.....15%

Grading Scale:

| | |
|----|-------------|
| A | 94 or Above |
| A- | 90-93 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 84-86 |
| B- | 80-83 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 74-76 |
| C- | 70-73 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 60-66 |
| F | Below 60 |

Grade Questions or Concerns:

I cannot discuss grades over email. If you have a concern about your grade you will need to come to my office hours or schedule another time to meet with me. If you notice a mathematical error in your grade, please notify me immediately. If you wish to contest a grade, please take 24 hours to review the feedback I have provided. If you still feel there is an error, please bring a written note explaining to me the error you believe I have made. All requests for regrading must be made within two weeks of the date the assignment was returned.

Please note that when I review a grade, your grade may be adjusted upwards or downwards.

Important Dates:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 21..... | 1 st quiz due by 11:59pm |
| September 16..... | 2 nd quiz due by 11:59pm |
| October 14..... | 3 rd quiz due by 11:59pm |
| October 19..... | Paper proposal due by 11:59pm |
| October 30..... | Paper outline due by 11:59pm |
| November 9..... | Paper peer review due by 11:59pm |

November 13.....4th quiz due by 11:59pm
November 16.....Final papers due by 11:59pm
TBD.....Final exam due by 11:59pm

Assignment Details:

1. Section Quizzes

You will complete a series of 4 short quizzes on Sakai throughout the semester. These quizzes will assess your understanding of key concepts in the course through short answer questions. Quizzes will be released at 9am the day they are due and must be completed by 11:59pm. Once you start the quiz, you have 1 hour to complete it. You may use your notes for these quizzes, but you may not collaborate with other students.

2. Discussion Board Posts

You will be divided into groups on Sakai and asked to respond to discussion questions. For each topic, you should write a 250-word post by the listed deadline. In addition, you will also post at least a 150-word response to one of your classmates' posts for each topic within one week of the original post deadline. Posts will be graded on their timeliness, length, and thoughtfulness. Be sure to follow the below guidelines when making your posts.

Be Thoughtful: These questions aim to engage you in the material and to think more thoroughly about the topics we are covering in class. The themes that come up in this class are not only applicable to a certain country or a certain period in time even if we discuss them in a particular context. As such, you're encouraged to draw from outside knowledge and think about applications beyond what was in the readings or lectures as long as you are staying on topic. You should think of these posts as a discussion with your classmates. If others have already posted, try to build off of what they have said to advance the discussion.

Be Timely- Keep up with your posts. Each post is timestamped so it is very easy for me to tell if you aren't completing them in a timely manner. Late posts will be penalized.

- Late posts within 24 hours of the due date will receive a 20% deduction.
- Late posts within 24-48 hours of the due date will receive half credit.
- Late posts more than 48 hours after the due date will not be accepted.

Be Respectful- You may not agree with all of your classmates' views. The discussion posts provide an opportunity to challenge others' views and

provide counterpoints to their arguments. You should, however, maintain a respectful tone in your responses.

3. Paper

For this course, you will be required to produce a research paper based on the following prompt and guidelines. Your paper should be 10 pages in 12pt Times New Roman, double spaced, and with 1" margins. You will be required to include a bibliography with your paper and it should include at least 5 academic sources (peer-reviewed academic journals and books) that are not required course materials. You may also use statistical databases, news articles, information from government websites, and course materials. Be sure to cross-check your sources to make sure they are credible. For example, be cautious with opinion pieces. You want to support your argument with facts rather than subjective opinions.

In addition to myself, additional resources are also available to you as you work on your papers. If you have not written a research paper before, or if you simply would like additional feedback on your paper, please consult The Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.unc.edu>). For assistance with finding reliable sources, you may also consider consulting with the library. Renée Bosman is the research librarian for Political Science and you may schedule an appointment with her here: <https://library.unc.edu/support/consultations/>.

Prompt: For this paper you should select a country in Latin America and analyze the quality of democracy in this country. Your paper should address what you consider to be the most pressing challenges to the country as well as potential solutions you could propose to overcome these challenges. I will dedicate a part of a class to going over the expectations of the paper as well as an example of the types of questions you might consider.

Deadlines:

Proposal: You should submit a brief proposal (1 to 2 paragraphs) of your proposed paper topic for approval by **October 19th**. I will review these abstracts and provide feedback on feasibility, potential sources, etc.

Outline including thesis statement and topic sentences for each body paragraph: You will submit an outline for your paper on **October 30th**. In your outline, you should be sure to have a clear thesis statement as well as topic sentences for each body paragraph. Any case studies you will use should be identified. You will share these outlines with me as well as one other students who will provide a peer review.

Peer Review: You will provide a brief (half page or so) peer review of one classmate's outline by **November 9th** . Reviews should be returned to your assigned peer as well as to me.

Final Paper: Final papers should be submitted via Sakai by midnight on **November 16th**.

4. **Final Exam**

You will be given a 24-hour window to complete the final exam (date to be confirmed when exam schedules are released). The exam will consist of a series of short essays.

Honor Code

The University's Honor Code applies to all assignments for this course. This means all work must be original and completely your own - plagiarism, cheating and other violations will not be tolerated. For more information on the honor code, please visit <http://honor.unc.edu>. If you would like more information on what plagiarism means and how to avoid it in your work, you can take a look at the library's tutorial (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagarism/>). You should also feel free to come talk to me if you have any questions.

Course Schedule

Please note that I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule, including to exam or assignment due dates, in the case of unforeseen circumstances. Please pay attention to your email and the class Sakai page for updates.

Dates highlighted in blue are our Monday sessions that will be held on Zoom. Assignment deadlines are listed in purple. I refer to readings from the textbook as SGS (for Smith, Green and Skidmore)

Section 1: Historical Foundations

August 10: Course Overview and Introduction to Latin America

- No Readings

August 12: Colonization

- SGS Chapter 2 pgs. 16-29

August 14: Independence

- SGS Chapter 2 pgs. 30-44
- **First discussion post due by 11:59pm**

August 17: Lasting Consequences of Colonialism

- Matthew Lange, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau. 2006. "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies." *American Journal of Sociology* 111, No. 5.

Section II: Politics of Development

August 19: Export-Import Development and Intro to Import Substitution Industrialization

- SGS Chapter 12

August 21: Section 1 Quiz

- No New Reading
- **Quiz 1 due by 11:59pm**

August 24: Research and Writing in Political Science

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/argument/>

- Library Research Consultations:
<https://library.unc.edu/support/consultations/>

August 26: Import Substitution Industrialization Phase

- Collier, David. 1979. "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model," in David Collier (ed.) *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press

August 28: Human Rights Abuses Under Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism

- Marguerite Feitlowitz. 2011. *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1
- **Discussion Post 2 due by 11:59pm**

August 31: The Debt Crisis and the Collapse of ISI

- Green, Duncan. "State Versus Market: The Rise and Fall of Import-Substitution."

September 2: The Debt Crisis Part 2

- Watch **Commanding Heights** video clips
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2Ks3_01i74
From 19:40-33:25 and from 49:00-1:01:00

September 4: Neoliberal Reforms

- John Williamson. "What Washington Means by Policy Reform." In Jeffrey Frieden and Michael Tomz (eds.) Modern Political Economy and Latin America: Theory and Policy. Westview Press. Boulder, CO. 2000.
- Kurt Weyland. 1998. "Swallowing the Bitter Pill: Sources of Popular Support for Neoliberal Reform in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies*. 31(5): pp. 539-563.

September 7: No Class for Labor Day

September 9: Consequences of Neoliberalism I

- Evelyne Huber and Fred Solt. "Successes and Failures of Neoliberalism." *Latin American Research Review* 39, no. 3 (2004): 150-164.

September 11: Consequences of Neoliberalism II

- Kurt Weyland. "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A mixed record." *Latin American Politics and Society* 46, no. 1 (2004): 135-157.
- **Discussion post 3 due by 11:59pm**

Section III: Democracy- Transitions and Institutions

September 14: Review of Politics of Development and Intro to Democracy

- Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is...and Is Not." *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): pp 75-88
- Peter Smith. 2012. "Cycles of Electoral Democracy" in *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 19-42

September 16: Section 2 Quiz

- No new reading
- **Quiz 2 due by 11:59pm**

September 18: Transitions- How do they happen and when do they lead to democracy?

- Peter Smith. 2012. "Transitions and Continuities." *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, Chapter 2

September 21: Chile-Case Background

- SGS Ch. 10 pages 283-309 (stop at the Contemporary Scene)

September 23: Chile's Transition

- No new reading

September 25: Dealing with the Past?

- Truth Commission Report Read pp. 6-17, 28-40

September 28: Dealing with the Past Part 2

- Jennifer Pribble. "Chile's Crisis Was Decades in the Making." *The Financial Times*. October 28, 2019.

September 30: Mexico Case Background

- SGS Chapter 3

October 2: Mexico's Transition

- Joy Langston. 2017. *Democratization and Authoritarian Party Survival: Mexico's PRI*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Chpt. 1

October 5: What Makes a Good Democracy?

- Measuring democracy activity in class

October 7: What do Latin American Democracies Look Like? Presidentialism vs. Parliamentarism

- Juan J. Linz. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy*. 1(1): pp. 51-69.
- Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart. 1997. "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics*. 29(4): 449-469

October 9: What do Latin American Democracies Look Like? Elections and Parties

- Scott Mainwaring. *Party Systems in Latin America: Institutionalization, Decay, and Collapse*. Cambridge University Press. Introduction.
- **Discussion post 4 due by 11:59pm**

October 12: Latin American Elections- Current Event Update on Bolivian Elections

- Santiago Anria and Jennifer Cyr. "Is Bolivia's democracy in danger? Here's what's behind the disputed presidential election." *The Washington Post*. October 30, 2019.
- John Curiel and Jack R. Williams. "Bolivia Dismissed its October elections as fraudulent. Our Research found no reason to suspect fraud." *The Washington Post*. February 27, 2020.

October 14: Section 3 Quiz

- No new reading
- **Quiz 3 due by 11:59pm**

Section IV: Challenges in Unequal Democracies

October 16: Inequality in Latin America

- J. Humberto Lopez and Guillermo Perry. 2008. "Inequality in Latin America: Determinants and Consequences." Policy Research Paper 4504. The World Bank.
- **Discussion post 5 due by 11:59pm**

October 19: Crime and Violence in Latin America

- Alisha Holland. "Right on Crime?: Conservative Party Politics and Mano Duro Policies in El Salvador." *Latin American Politics and Society*. 48(1): pp 44-65.
- Miguel Carreras, 2013. The Impact of Criminal Violence on Regime Legitimacy in Latin America. *Latin American Research Review*, pp.85-107.
- **Paper proposal due by 11:59pm**

October 21: The Case of Colombia

- SGS Chpt. 7

October 23: Colombia's Peace Deal- How did it happen?

- No New Reading

October 26: Colombia's Peace Deal- Can it work?

- Juan Arredondo. "The Slow Death of Colombia's Peace Movement." *The Atlantic*. December 13, 2019.

October 28: The Rise of the Left- Latin America's Two Lefts

- Steven Levitsky and Kenneth M. Roberts. 2001. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Introduction (pg. 1-26) and Conclusion (pgs. 399-427).

October 30: The Brazilian Left

- Wendy Hunter. 2007. "The Normalization of an Anomaly: The Worker's Party in Brazil." *World Politics*. 59(3): 440-475.
- **Paper outline due by 11:59pm**

November 2: How the PT Governed

- Wendy Hunter and Natasha Borges Sugiyama. 2009. "Democracy and Social Policy in Brazil: Advancing Basic Needs, Preserving Privileged Interests." *Latin American Politics and Society*. 51(2): 29-58.

November 4: The Fall of the PT and the Rise of the Radical Right

- Wendy Hunter and Timothy Power. 2019. "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash." *Journal of Democracy*. 30(1): 68-82.
- Listen: *The Brazilian Report Explaining Brazil Podcast- Brazil's Age of Extreme Politics* (<https://brazilian.report/power/2019/11/27/brazil-age-extreme-politics-quilherme-casaroos-fgv/>)

November 6: Venezuela: From Stability to Collapse

- SGS Green Chapter 8 pgs 217-232 (Stop at the Contemporary Scene)
- Jana Morgan. 2007. "Partisanship During the Collapse of Venezuela's Party System." *Latin American Research Review*. Pp. 78-98

November 9: The Rise of Chávez

- Margarita López Maya. 2011. "Venezuela: Hugo Chávez and the Populist Left." In *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, eds. Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Pg. 213-238.
- **Watch:** The Hugo Chavez Show (<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-the-hugo-chavez-show/>)
- **Paper peer review due by 11:59pm**

November 11: Venezuela After Chávez: What's to be Done?

- Jon Lee Anderson. "Venezuela's Two Presidents Collide." *The New Yorker*. June 2019.
- Listen: *Planet Money Podcast: How Venezuela Imploded* (<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/10/21/498867764/episode-731-how-venezuela-imploded>)
- **Discussion post 6 due by 11:59pm**

November 13: Section 4 Quiz

- No new reading
- **Quiz 4 due by 11:59pm**

November 16: Populism and Democratic Decline

- Robert Kaufman and Stephan Haggard. 2019. "Democratic Decline in the United States: What Can We Learn from Middle-Income Backsliding?" *Perspectives on Politics* 17(2):417-432.
- **Final papers due by 11:59pm**

Final Exam- TBD