

SOUTH AMERICAN POLITICS: INSTITUTIONS AND CHANGE

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FALL 2008
ARCHER 365B
W 2:30-5:10 PM

INSTRUCTOR INFO

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines contemporary South American politics. Centering on the idea of democratization, we examine the challenges, possibilities, and promises of democracy in the region. We begin by looking at the theoretical challenges of democratization, and over the course of the semester, we examine these themes through the experiences of six South American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. We will dedicate the last few weeks of the semester to the U.S.-South American relationship and the effect of that relationship on the prospect of democracy in South America.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Class Participation (15%):** Your class participation grade is comprised of two elements. The first is your daily contribution to class discussion. This means coming to class having read and thought about the readings. Come prepared to participate *actively*, and remember, quality counts just as much as quantity. Our discussions of South American politics will be punctuated with discussions of current events, and I expect you to keep up with happenings in the region. Attendance is mandatory, although I do allow two “free pass” days over the course of the semester. You needn’t tell me why you won’t be attending seminar on these days. After that, any absence will affect your grade negatively; with three or more absences you are in serious risk of failing the class.

The second component of your class participation grade will be a 10-minute presentations on one week’s reading. This should be a critical response to what you have read. In addition to covering the readings for the week, I expect you to integrate current events about the given topic into your discussion.

- **Weekly Postings (10%):** Each week I will post a question for discussion to our class Blackboard page to which students should respond before 9am on Wednesdays. These will be open-ended questions that ask you to think critically about the readings. The questions and replies also provide an opportunity to engage with your classmates on some of the core themes in the class. Your responses need only be a paragraph or two, and while they should speak to the readings, please do not summarize them. You should feel free to pose questions in your posting, as well. You will post your commentary every week except for two: the week of the mid-term and the last week of the semester.
- **Mid-Term Exam (35%):** This will be a standard, in-class, blue-book exam with IDs and essays. On the exam I will give you some choice about the IDs and essays you must answer, but I will not give you these in advance of the exam. The exam will take place

on Wed., Oct. 22, at our normal time and place. I will hold extra office hours on Mon., Oct. 20 and/or schedule a review session to answer any questions you might have.

- **Research Paper (40%):** Each student will research and write a substantively and theoretically original paper. This paper should be on a manageable topic, have a clear research question and thesis, and rely on a combination of primary and secondary sources. Papers will be graded on the quality of research, writing/organization, and argument. We will discuss the paper in more depth over the course of the semester, but I strongly urge you to begin thinking about your project as soon as possible. Undergrads are expected to write a 12-15 page paper, while graduate students' papers should be between 15 and 20 pages. (All papers should be double-spaced, with 12-point, Times New Roman font, and one-inch margins. Please, no funny business with the font, spacing, etc.) Papers will be due on the last day of class (Dec. 3), at which time students will present their research to the class. Your final research paper grade will incorporate both your oral presentation and the actual paper. We will discuss the paper and presentation at length as we go through the semester. Intermediary steps are due to me throughout the semester and are indicated on the course outline.
- **Academic Honesty**
I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbooks for the University's policies for plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions concerning the proper use of citations or sourcing, I would be more than happy to answer them.

READINGS

You should complete the assigned readings for the week prior to our class meeting. We will rely on three primary texts this semester. Occasionally, I will ask you to read an article from a scholarly journal. You can access these articles through the Sawyer Library Electronic Journal Database.

The required books we will use are:

- *Modern Latin America*, eds. Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Sixth edition.
- *Readings in Latin American Politics: Challenges to Democratization*, ed. Peter R. Kingstone. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.
- Weeks, Gregory. *U.S. and Latin American Relations*. New York: Pearson Education, 2008.

In addition to these three required books, I highly recommend two supplemental volumes, listed below. These books are in the bookstore and library and are labeled as "recommended." Peter Smith's book, *Talons of the Eagle*, is an excellent history of U.S.-Latin American Relations, with a focus on the early stages of the relationship. Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost's very thorough study of Latin American politics, provides both thematic and case-specific analyses of Latin American political development. The chapters on Colombia and Venezuela are new additions to the second edition of the book and will be useful to those of you working on research projects in those states. Both are good additions to your personal libraries, but neither is required for the course.

- Smith, Peter. *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of U.S.-Latin American Relations*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. Second edition.
- Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Second edition.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction to South America (9.3.08)

This week's readings serve two purposes: to introduce you to the basic themes in the study of South American politics and to provide a brief history of the region.

- Kingstone, "Introduction"
- Skidmore and Smith, "Introduction" and "The Colonial Foundations" (Ch. 1).

Week 2: Challenges of Democratization (9.10.08)

This week's readings introduce some of the theoretical puzzles surrounding democratization. For example, how do we define democracy? Is this definition shared by scholars and citizens in South America? What is the relationship between human/civil rights and democracy? How do states transition to democracy?

- Kingstone, "The Challenges of Democratization" (Ch. 2)
- Skidmore and Smith, "The Transformation of Modern Latin America, 1880s-2000s" (Ch. 2)
- Huntington, "After Twenty Years: The Future of the Third Wave" in *Journal of Democracy*, 8(4): 1997, p. 3-12.

Week 3: Neoliberal Economic Reform (9.17.07)

This week we examine the economic choices and policy preferences of South American states and international financial institutions (IFIs). We discuss what neoliberal economic reforms entailed, as well as the successes and challenges of these policies and their legacy in contemporary international political economy.

- Kingstone, "Neoliberal Economic Reform" (Ch. 3)
- Weeks, "Free Trade and Neoliberal Reform" (Ch. 8)
- Brookings Institute, "Economic Crisis, Markets, and Democracy in Latin America: Some Evidence From the Economics of Happiness."
http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2003/spring_globaleconomics_graham.aspx

Week 4: Traditional and Emerging Actors (9.24.08)

In this week's readings, we discuss the major players in South American politics, including, but not limited to, the military, labor, women, and indigenous groups.

- Kingstone, "Traditional and Emerging Actors in the Latin American Polity" (Ch. 4)
- M. Loveman, "High Risk Collective Action: Defending Human Rights in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay," *American Journal of Sociology*, 104(2): 1998, 477-525.

1-PAGE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT, POSSIBLE SOURCES, AND RESEARCH METHODS DUE IN CLASS ON WED., SEPT. 24, 2008.

Week 5: Political and Economic Stability and Instability: Argentina (10.1.08)

This week, we study the familiar pattern of democratization, repression, and re-democratization that occurred throughout much of South America. Using the case of Argentina, we trace the country's long history of democracy, Peronism and the military, the return of democracy, and the economic crises of the early 21st century.

- Kingstone, “Political Instability and Argentina’s Boom and Bust and Boom Again Cycles” (Ch. 6)
- Skidmore and Smith, “Argentina: Prosperity, Deadlock, and Change” (Ch. 3)
- Teslik, “Argentina’s Leadership Crisis,” *Council on Foreign Affairs*.
http://www.cfr.org/publication/16718/argentinas_leadership_crisis.html?breadcrumb=%2Fbios%2F12286%2Flee_hudson_teslik

Weeks 6: Unequal Democratization: Brazil (10.8.08)

Brazil’s path to democracy was measured and slow. Today, Brazil is a regional superpower and a world economic leader. Yet, the fruits of democratization in Brazil, as in many other places, are not shared equally among its citizens. This week, we examine Brazil’s path to democracy, the problem of inflation and hyper-inflation, and the challenges of meeting the needs of Brazil’s diverse population.

- Kingstone, “Brazil: The Democratizing Giant” (Ch. 7)
- Skidmore and Smith, “Brazil: Development for Whom?” (Ch. 5)
- The Stanley Foundation, Radio Documentary, “Brazil Rising,”
<http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/articles.cfm?id=464>

Week 7: Democracy and the Military: Chile, Argentina & Brazil: (10.15.08)

This week we focus on the role of the military in South American politics. While we will look primarily at the case of Chile, we also will review the role of the military in Argentina and Brazil.

- Kingstone, “Chile: A New Model for the Region?” (Ch. 8)
- Skidmore and Smith, “Chile: Socialism, Repression and Democracy” (Ch. 4)
- Please review:
 - Skidmore and Smith, “Argentina: Prosperity, Deadlock and Change” pp. 94-108.
 - Skidmore and Smith, “Brazil: Development for Whom?” pp. 171-178. (You can skip “The quest for Afro-Brazilian identity” for now. We’ll come back to this in a few weeks.)

Week 8: Midterm Exam (10.22.08)

No new material this week. The exam will be held during our normal class hours and will be on the material we have covered thus far.

Week 9: State Violence, Insurgency, and Counterinsurgency: Colombia (10.19.08)

We look at the military in South America again this week, although in a very different context. Now, we examine intra-state conflict in Colombia and the challenges of building democracy in the face of state-sponsored violence, insurgency and counter-insurgency.

- Kingstone, “Colombia: The Collapse of the State” (Ch. 9)
- Skidmore and Smith, “Colombia: Discord, Civility, and Violence” (Ch. 7)

Week 10: Resources: Drugs and Oil in Colombia and Venezuela (11.5.08)

This week we look at the distribution of wealth and affliction as a result of the drug and oil trade.

- Weeks, “Drug Trafficking and Terrorism” (Ch. 11)
- Sweig, “What Kind of War for Colombia” in *Foreign Affairs*, 81(5): 2002, p. 122.
- Alvarez and Hanson, “Venezuela’s Oil-Based Economy,” *Council on Foreign Affairs*
- “Oil—Venezuela’s Lifeblood—Is Also a Political Flashpoint”
http://www.usatoday.com/money/world/2007-04-04-venezuela-1b-usat_N.htm

This week we also will watch an excerpt of the PBS *Frontline* documentary “Drug Wars.”

Week 11: Indigenous & Racial Challenges: Peru & Brazil (11.12.08)

This week we focus on minority groups in South America, paying particular attention to indigenous groups in the Andean region and Afro-Brazilians. What role do minority groups play in South American democracy? Conversely, what role should democratization play in dictating the future of minority groups in South America?

- Skidmore and Smith, “Peru: Soldiers, Oligarchs, and Indians” (Ch. 6)
- Lovell, “Gender, Race and the Struggle for Social Justice in Brazil” in *Latin American Perspectives* 27(6): 2000, p. 85-102.
- Please Review
 - Skidmore and Smith, “Brazil: Development for Whom?” pp. 174-175 (Ch. 5)

In class this week we also will watch a documentary, “Brazil: Black and White” from PBS’s *WideAngle*.

PROJECT OUTLINE AND INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH DUE IN CLASS NOV. 12, 2008.

Week 12: U.S.-South American Relations (11.19.08)

We begin our two-week unit on U.S.-South American relations this week. We will examine the historical patterns of this relationship through the 20th Century.

- Weeks, “Historical Background” (Part 1, Chs. 1, 2, 3, 7)—We will have covered most of this information throughout the semester, but do give this section a quick read.)
- Weeks, “Latin American Immigration and U.S. Policy” (Ch. 9) and “Human Rights and Democracy” (Ch. 10).
- Casteñeda, “Morning in Latin America” in *Foreign Affairs* 87(5): 2008, p. 126-139.

Week 13: Thanksgiving Recess—No Class (11.26.08)

Week 14: Research Presentations (12.03.08)

We will use this week for research presentations. More information on the presentations will follow.

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE WED. DEC. 3, 2008 IN CLASS.