

Government and Politics in Latin America

Spring 2012
Course #: 50:790:311:11
Tuesdays 6-8:40pm
Rutgers University - Camden

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Course Description:

This course will combine a critical review of key events and concepts in modern Latin America with firsthand experience in the region. During the semester we will study the modern political history of Latin America, specifically focusing on social science explanations of the region's economic, political and social challenges. We will then examine the process of democratization and the connections between democracy and development in Latin America. Finally, we will consider the rise of the left and investigate innovations in governance in Latin America and the future for democratization and development in the region.

To complement the course, we will travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Though Brazil is often regarded as an emerging global power, the country continues to address the twin challenges of poverty and inequality. As one of the largest cities in the world, Rio de Janeiro exhibits many of the problems of rapid urbanization--poverty, homelessness, violence, and low provision of services--which plague cities across the globe. Through a series of lectures and tours we will witness both the positive signs of growth as well as the myriad of challenges that remain.

Dates for the trip: May 18-27, 2012

Required Readings:

Politics of Latin America: The Power Game, by Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost, (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Mexico: What Everyone Needs to Know by Roderic Ai Camp (Oxford University Press, 2011)

The New Brazil, by Riordan Roett, (Brookings Institution Press, 2011).

Prior to every class you should also review the "Americas" section of *The Economist* (either online or in print, available through the library).

Recommended Reading:

Brazil on the Rise: The Story of a Country Transformed (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010).

Grading and Assignments:

Requirement	Due date	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	On-going	20%
Map Quiz	January 26	5%
Midterm	March 8	25%
Final Exam	May ? (Check registrar)	25%
Research Paper	Proposal: due March 22 For graduating students: Paper due May 1 For non-graduating students: Paper due June 4	5% 20%

Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your involvement in class discussions, including during our trip to Brazil. Please note that there is not a written attendance policy for this course. However, clearly you cannot participate in class if you are not present. Your participation grade depends on your preparation for the class and the quality of your contribution to discussions. The following provides general guidelines for my expectations for each grade range:

A's = speaks often in class, asks thoughtful questions, clearly engaged, always prepared

B's = occasionally contributes to class discussion, not clear that the student has done all of the readings, may appear attentive in class

C's = only participates in class discussions a few times during the semester, does not appear to be prepared, does not exhibit interest in the material

D's = rarely attends class, seems not to be prepared or engaged in the material, does not ask questions or provide comments

F's = never attends class

Map Quiz

The Map Quiz will be worth 2.5% of your course grade. You will be required to know both country and major capital names.

Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam in this course with both short answer identifications and essay questions. Expectations for the exams will be discussed in review sessions prior to the test.

Research Paper

All students will be required to write a research paper for this course. For those students graduating this semester, your paper will be due by **May 1, 2012**. For non-graduating students, the paper will be due on **June 4**, unless you choose to complete it earlier. The paper should address a current policy issue in the Americas and provide recommendations as to how relevant governments may approach the issue.

Students should choose their topic based on individual interests. The following is a list of potential paper topics, though it is by no means an exhaustive list.

Ongoing prosecution of human rights violations under military dictatorships

The drug trade in Latin America

Major policy concerns regarding Latin America for the United States

Environmental policy in Brazil

Political inclusion in Brazilian cities

Students should submit paper proposals to me by **March 22**. Proposals should include a brief statement of the issue you intend to research and a list of 5 potential sources with annotation (brief summary of the source). I strongly advise you to schedule a meeting with me at this point to discuss your papers.

Final papers should be approximately **15 pages** in length with proper citations (MLA, Chicago, or APA). The suggested outline for the paper is as follows:

Introduction with thesis statement

Background on the issue

Reasons why the issue is at a critical juncture for policy makers to address

Current measures to address the issue

Your recommendations to relevant policy makers

Conclusion summarizing your argument

Policies:

Disabilities: Please advise me as soon as possible of any disability that may affect your performance in this course. I will make all necessary accommodations so that your learning, writing, and testing needs may be appropriately met. You are required by the University to provide documentation of the disability to the Student Life Office, Rutgers Learning Center, or Graduate School Dean.

Late Papers: Late papers will be marked down one grade for every day they are tardy. Extensions will be granted only in extreme cases.

Academic Integrity: All students of Rutgers-Camden are required to adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Violations of the Policy include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Should you have any questions regarding behavior that may be defined as a violation of the University's Policy,

please do not hesitate to discuss the matter with me. Please see the following link for further information: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Presentations

Why Study Latin America?		
	In Class	Assignment Due
January 19	Course Introduction Panorama of Latin American Politics, Economics, and Society	Vanden & Prevost p. 1-17 Michael Reid, <i>Forgotten Continent</i> , Chapter 1 (Sakai)
What explains democracy and development in Latin America?		
January 26	Current Events 1. Colonial Legacy 2. Modernization 3. Dependency Theory	V&P pp. 18-54 (Historical Background-skim) V&P pp. 79-114, 151-168 and 182-201 (Read more thoroughly) Map Quiz
February 9	Current Events 4. U.S. Intervention during the Cold War Movie: Dateline 1973, Chile (25 min.)	V&P pp. 54-78 Reid Chapters 4 and 5 (Sakai) <i>The Economist</i> , "Slaking a Thirst for Justice" (Sakai)
Transitions to Democracy and Economic Liberalization		
February 23	Mexico, Democratization and Neoliberalism	V&P pp. 169-181, 202-244, skim 245-262 Ai Camp: Chapters 3, 9 and 10
March 8	MIDTERM	

The Left in Latin America		
March 22	The "New" Left in Latin America The Hugo Chavez Show	Cleary, "Explaining the Left's Resurgence" (Sakai) V&P pp. 263-274 Reid, Chapter 7 "The Populist Challenge" (Sakai)
Inter-Hemispheric Relations		
April 5	Mexico, Economic Integration, Migration and the Drug Trade	Ai Camp: Chapters 1, 2, and 4 Organization of American States, "International Migration in the Americas" (Sakai) Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy, "Drugs and Democracy: Toward a Paradigm Shift." (5 page statement on Sakai)
Ongoing Challenges for Democratic Governance		
April 19	Introduction to Brazil Conclusions and Review on Latin America	Roett, Chapter 1 Introduction: The New Brazil and Chapter 7 Lula's Brazil. (Skim the rest of the book prior to our trip) Hunter "The Partido dos Trabalhadores: Still a Party of the Left?" (Sakai) Reid, Chapter 12 "The Loneliness of Latin America" (Sakai)
Due by May 3 rd at 9pm	Final Exam - ONLINE	

Trip to Brazil: May 18-27

Readings and Lectures: TBD