**Government and Politics in Latin America**

Fall 2014

Course #: 50:790:311:01

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-4:20pm

Rutgers University – Camden

Room: Armitage Hall 124

Dr. Maureen M. Donaghy

Office: Room 110, 401 Cooper St.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday 2-2:45pm and by appointment

Email: Maureen.Donaghy@Rutgers.edu

**Course Description:**

This course will provide a critical review of key events and concepts in modern Latin America. During the semester we will study the modern political history of the region, specifically focusing on social science explanations for economic, political and social challenges. We will then examine the process of democratization and the connections between democracy and development in Latin America. We will consider the rise (and fall) of the left and investigate innovations in governance in Latin America and the future for democratization and development in the region. Throughout the course, case studies will highlight current national challenges in the context of regional politics.

**Required Readings:**

*Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, by Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost, (Oxford University Press, 2015).

*Brazil’s Dance with the Devil: The World Cup, the Olympics and the Fight for Democracy* by Dave Zirin (Haymarket Press, 2014).

Articles posted on the course Sakai site.

**Blogs and other Websites to consult for current events:**

Latin America’s Moment - <http://blogs.cfr.org/oneil/>

*The Economist*, Latin American Politics - <http://www.economist.com/topics/latin-american-politics>

*America’s Quarterly* - <http://www.americasquarterly.org/aqblog>

Latin American Political Opinion Project, *Insight Series* - <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lapop/insights2014.php>

Latin American Network Information Center (U. of Texas) - <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/>

BBC, New York Times, Washington Post, Guardian, etc.

**Course 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>.

**Learning Objectives:**

For this class there are four learning objectives.

1. Students will understand political and economic development in Latin America relative to general social science explanations.
2. Students will write a policy brief, which will enable them to concisely identify a current policy problem and provide solutions to policy makers. Working in groups towards the completion of this paper will strengthen their ability to work with other team members.
3. Students will acquire an understanding of the current political and economic challenges facing the region and the impact of institutional and policy design related to regional and country-specific issues.
4. Students will understand the complex nature of the relationship between Latin America and the United States based on historical intervention and current bonds in the region.

**Grading and Assignments:**

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| **Requirement** | **Due date** | **Percentage of Final Grade** |
| Participation | Ongoing | 20% |
| Map Quiz | Sept. 9 | 5% |
| Midterm | Oct. 21 | 25% |
| Final Exam | Dec. 16 | 25% |
| Policy Brief | Proposal – Oct. 30  Policy Brief – Dec. 9 | 5%  20% |

**Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on your involvement in class discussions. 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 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.

**Policy Brief**

All students will be required to write a policy brief for this course. 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 very brief list of *potential* paper topics, though it is by no means an exhaustive list.

The drug trade in Latin America

Migration of minors from Central America to the US

Environmental policy

Housing the poor in Brazilian cities

Students should submit paper proposals to me by **October 30**. 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). On **Tuesday, October 28th** students should bring a draft of their proposals to class. We will then discuss the proposals in small groups and review examples of policy briefs to guide writing of the final paper.

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

Executive summary

Background on the issue

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

Current measures to address the issue and the reasons why these measures are not sufficient

Your recommendations to relevant policy makers

Conclusion summarizing your argument

**Schedule of Lectures, Readings and Presentations**

**Week 1: Why Study Latin America?**

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| Sept.2 | Course Introduction |  |
| Sept. 4 | Panorama of Latin American Politics, Economics, and Society | V&P pp. xiv-17  Reid, Chapter 1 (Sakai) |

**Week 2: Theories of Development**

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| Sept. 9 | Colonial Legacy | V&P pp. 18-52 (skim), 82-117, 188-195  **Map Quiz** |
| Sept. 11 | Modernization and Dependency Theory | V&P pp. 154-167  Valenzuela and Valenzuela, “Modernization and Dependency in Latin America” |

**Week 3: U.S. Intervention**

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| Sept. 16 | U.S. Intervention during the Cold War | V&P pp. 52-79  Reid, Chapter 4 in *Forgotten Continent* (Sakai)  Divine, “What Really Happened in Chile” (Sakai) |
| Sept. 18 | Discussion: Crisis of Undocumented Minors at the Border | **Additional Readings TBD**  Wilson Center Brief: “How to Address Child Migration from Central America”  Factsheet on Central American Migrants from the Migration Policy Institute: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/central-american-immigrants-united-states> |

**Week 4: Political and Economic Transitions**

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| Sept. 23 | Democratization  Begin the “No” movie | V&P pp. 195-209  O’ Donnell “Delegative Democracy” |
| Sept. 25 | Finish the “No” movie  Discussion on Chile | Chile in V&P pp. 409-431 |

**Week 5: Economic Reform and the Left Turn in Latin America**

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| Sept. 30 | Economic Liberalization | V&P pp. 167-187 |
| Oct. 2 | Explaining the rise of the left | V&P pp. 263-274  Cleary, “Explaining the Left’s Resurgence” (Sakai)  Castañeda, “Latin America’s Left Turn” |

**Week 6: Venezuela**

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| Oct. 7 | Venezuela and the era of Hugo Chavez | Skim: V&P pp 463-493  From *Foreign Affairs*: “A Benign Revolution” (Sakai) vs. “An Empty Revolution” (Sakai)  “Hugo’s Legacy in Six Charts”: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/03/06/hugo-chavezs-legacy-in-six-charts/>  “Is Chavismo Coming to an End in Venezuela?” (Sakai) |
| Oct. 9 | Venezuela: Guest Speaker | Come prepared with questions for guest speaker Brian Naranjo, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy in Venezuela |

**Week 7: Political Institutions and Review**

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| Oct. 14 | Political Institutions | V&P pp. 210-253 |
| Oct. 16 | Review for Midterm | Come prepared with questions to review |

**Week 8: Midterm Exam and Inter-Hemispheric Relations**

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| **Oct. 21** | **Midterm Exam** | **ONLINE** |
| Oct. 23 | Overview of Inter-Hemispheric Relations  The Drug Trade | See the North American Congress on Latin America’s Special Report on “Reimagining Drug Policy in the Americas”. Read at least three of the articles and come prepared to discuss: <https://nacla.org/edition/10415> |

**Week 9: Policy Briefs and Cuba**

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| Oct. 28 | Workshop on policy briefs | Bring draft of policy brief proposal to class |
| Oct. 30 | Cuba | Skim: V&P pp. 339-367  Sweig and Bustamante “Cuba after Communism” (Sakai)  Garrett “Castrocare in Crisis” (Sakai)  **Policy Brief Proposal Due** |

**Week 10: Civil Society, Social Movements and Indigenous Politics**

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| Nov. 4 | Social Movements, Indigenous politics and Bolivia | V&P pp. 254-285  Skim V&P pp. 481-513  Van Cott, “Latin America’s Indigenous People’s Movements” |
| Nov. 6 | FILM TBD |  |

**Week 11: Brazil in Focus**

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| Nov. 11 | Why Brazil?  State of the Country | V&P pp. 381-407 (Brazil)  Zirin, Chapters 1-3  Hunter “The Partido dos Trabalhadores: Still a Party of the Left?” (Sakai) |
| Nov. 13 | Issues in Urban Politics  **CLASS ONLINE** | World Bank Report on the Urban Poor in Latin America, “Overview” |

**Week 12: Brazil in Focus: Challenges for Urbanization**

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| Nov. 18 | Participatory Democracy | Wampler, “When Does Participatory Democracy Deepen the Quality of Democracy? Lessons from Brazil” |
| Nov. 20 | Mega-events, Displacement, and Resistance | Zirin, Chapters 7-8 |

**Week 13/14: Policy in the Region**

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| Nov. 25 | Policy Brief Workshop/Presentation |  |
| Nov. 27 | THANKSGIVING |  |
| Dec. 2 | Policy Brief Workshop/Presentation |  |

**Week 14/15: Future Directions for Democracy and Development**

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| Dec. 4 | Democracy and Development | Layton and Moseley, “Prosperity and Protest in Brazil: The Wave of the Future for Latin America?” (Sakai)  SKIM Talvi and Munyo, “Latin America Macroeconomic Outlook” (Sakai) |
| Dec. 9 | Review for Final Exam | **Final Policy Brief Due** |

**Final Exam: December 16, 2:45-5:45**