

POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA

POLS 311 – Fall 2009

WWF 782 – M1100/NH402

Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu

kadirbeyoglu@gmail.com

Office Hours: Thursday 10:30 to 12:00 IB 502

This course will provide an introduction to the Politics of Latin America with a focus on populism, revolution, authoritarianism and democracy. The students will explore in depth the sources of change and continuity in Latin American political processes. The struggle for political change and economic development in Latin America will be examined through a historical and theoretical analysis. In the end, many questions will remain open, which students will then be able to address on their own.

Readings

Students are expected to read all the assigned readings in the course pack. The instructor assumes that the readings are done apace with the course. The reading pack provides a good collection of scholarly work on Latin America that students might find useful in framing their understanding of particular issues. The course pack is available at Gunel Fotokopi.

Course evaluations

- Midterm Exam (17 November-**Tuesday**) – 30%
- Short Paper: Documentary/Film Review – 20% (due **25 November** in class – 4 pages)
- Take home Final Exam – 30% (or a research paper due **December 30** - see below for detailed information about the paper)
- Participation in class and pop quiz – 20%

Documentary/Film review: Should not exceed 4 pages. Should be a critical review of a film or documentary we watched in class/during film screenings, or a movie on Latin America that you choose (you should hand in the name of the movie you will be reviewing by **November 11th**). The review should not only describe the film but critically engage with the content of the film based on your theoretical and historical knowledge of the region and political science. Ideally, you should refer to readings from the course pack and/or other sources (please remember that wikipedia is not an academic resource-if you need extra material use web of science to search for articles. The university library has access to a wide range of electronic resources).

Paper format: Those who wish to write a research paper should get the consent of the instructor first. Following the consent and the determination of the paper topic, the paper proposal should be submitted to the instructor no later than **November 20th**. Students who write a paper should also make a 10 minute presentation in class on the **25th of December**. (5% proposal+5% presentation+20% paper). Papers due in class: **30 December**.

Papers must be double-spaced (maximum 15 pages – excluding the bibliography) with one-inch margins and use 12-point font for the text.

Late papers/reviews: there will be 3 percent penalty per day for late papers and reviews.

Participation: Class attendance is essential and participation in discussion is important. There will be random pop quizzes throughout the term and the participation in class and the results of the pop quizzes will constitute 20 percent of the final grade and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious problem and refers to dishonestly representing someone else's ideas as your own. Plagiarism is punished by disciplinary committee and usually results in an F as course grade and sometimes heavier penalties. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences (<http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/favoidingplagiarism.htm>).

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. For further guidelines, you can consult: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/pdf/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf>
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic F in the assignment or the exam,
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee,
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty,
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs,
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department.

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

Contesting grades

It is possible to contest the grade for all portions of the course. To do so, the following procedure must be followed: within a week of the return of the grade in question, the concerned student must hand the instructor a typewritten request, along with the original work, explaining in no more than one page why the grade granted is inappropriate. Reference must be made to the guidelines provided and to the content of the exam. The instructor will then re-grade the paper or exam and the new grade will then become irrevocable. No guarantee of a positive change in the grade is made.

CLASS SCHEDULE

2 October - Introduction to Politics of Latin America

Wiarda, H. J. and H. F. Kline, "The Context of Latin American Politics" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

7 October - Introduction to Politics of Latin America (continued)

Documentary (in class)

Hillman, R. "Introduction" in Hillman ed. *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. 2005. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

9 October – A brief history of the region

Price, M. "Latin America: A geographic Preface" in Hillman ed. *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. 2005. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

POPULISM

14 October – The economic background

Knippers Black, J. "Introduction: Understanding the persistence of Inequity" in J. Knippers Black ed. *Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise*. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

Enrique Cárdenas, "The Process of Accelerated Industrialization in Mexico, 1929-82" in Enrique Cárdenas *et al.*, *An Economic History of Twentieth Century Latin America*, Oxford, St. Antony's College – Palgrave, 2000, vol. 3, pp. 176-204.

16 October – Political actors of Latin America

Wiarda, H. J. and H. F. Kline, "Interest Groups and Political Parties" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

21 October – Populism

Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1988, pp. 7-40.

23 October – Argentina

Linda Chen. "Argentina in the Twenty-first Century" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

28 October – No class

30 October – No class

REVOLUTION

4 November – The Working Classes

Ian Roxborough, "Urban Labour Movements in Latin America since 1930", in Leslie Bethell (ed.), *Latin America: Politics and Society since 1930*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 219-290.

6 November – The Rural Sectors

James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, "The Peasantry and the State in Latin America: a Troubled Past, an Uncertain Future", in Tom Brass (ed.), *Latin American Peasants*, London, Frank Cass, 2003, chapter 2, pp.41-75.

11 November – Revolution

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, *Guerrilla Warfare*, New York, Vintage, 1968, chapter 1, pp.1-31.

Documentary: Cuba

13 November – Cuba

Juan M. del Aguila. "Cuba: Development, Revolution and Decay" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

17 November – Midterm exam

Place: TBA. Time: TBA.

AUTHORITARIANISM

18 November – Electoral democracies

D'Agostino, T.J. "Latin American Politics" in R.S. Hillman (ed.) *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. 2005. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

20 November – Bureaucratic Authoritarianism

Manuel Antonio Garretón, *The Chilean Political Process*, Boston Unwin Hyman, 1989, pp. 68-114.

25 November – The politicized state

Douglas Chalmers, "The Politicized State in Latin America", in James Malloy (ed.), *Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America*, Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1977, pp. 23-45.

27 November – No class (Bayram)

2 December – Chile

Arturo Valenzuela, "Chile: Origins and Consolidation of a Latin American Democracy", in Larry Diamond *et al.*, *Democracy in Developing Countries: Latin America*, Boulder, Lynne Rienner, 1999, pp. 190-247.

REDEMOCRATIZATION

4 December – Neo-liberalism

John Sheahan, "Alternative Models of Capitalism in Latin America", in Evelyne Huber (ed.), *Models of Capitalism: Lessons for Latin America*, University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2002, pp. 25-51.

Judith A. Teichman "Competing Visions of Democracy and Development in the Era of Neoliberalism in Mexico and Chile" *International Political Science Review*. 2009. 30(1): 67-87.

9 December – Redemocratization

Philip Oxhorn, "Is the Century of Corporatism Over? Neoliberalism and the Rise of Neopluralism", in P. Oxhorn and Graciela Ducatenzeiler (eds.), *What Kind of Democracy? What Kind of Market?*, University Park, Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998, pp. 195-217.

Robert R. Kaufman "The Political Effects of Inequality in Latin America: Some Inconvenient Facts" *Comparative Politics*, April 2009.

11 December – Brazil

I.S. Wiarda. "Brazil: The Disorders of a Progressive Democracy" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

16 December – Rise of the new political movements

Brian, A. Nelson. "Polarization in Venezuela: The Battle Between Hugo Chavez and the Opposition" *Latin American Politics*.

Documentary – Inside the Coup

18 December – Rise of the new political movements (continued)

Kurt Weyland. "The Rise of Latin America's Two Lefts: Insights from Rentier State Theory" *Comparative Politics*, January 2009.

23 December – Mexico + Guest lectures

Winn, P. "Continent on the Move"

Grayson, G. W. "Mexico: The Emergence of a Messianic Reformer" in H. J. Wiarda and H.F. Kline (eds) *Latin American Politics and Development*. 2007. Cambridge MA: Westview Press.

You are responsible from these presentations and guest lectures for the final exam.

25 December – Paper presentations

You are responsible from these presentations and guest lectures for the final exam

30 December Challenges for Latin America

Ronald Schneider. "Conclusions and a Look into the Future" in *Latin American Political History: Patterns and Personalities.* 2007. Boulder: Westview Press.

Peter Winn. "Latin America and the Caribbean in the Twenty-first Century: A New Millennium?" in P. Winn. *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*. 2006. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Films

In addition to the lectures and documentaries we watch in class there will be film screenings. These are not mandatory but you should write a film review of a Latin American film. You can choose to write it on one of these movies:

7 October – Strawberry and Chocolate (Cuba)

21 October – The Official Story (Argentina)

18 November – Machuca (Chile)

9 December – Innocent Voices (El Salvador)