

**Politics of Latin America**  
**Political Science 333**  
**Latin American Studies 333**  
**Fall 2014**  
**Syracuse University**

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Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:45 – 2:05pm, Eggers 018

Course Website: use <https://blackboard.syr.edu/>

### **Course Objectives**

This course has two main objectives. The first is to introduce students to several themes that are most relevant to Latin American politics today, including democratization and democratic performance, the politics of economic development and reform, the formation and politicization of ethnic identities, and several more. The second objective is to teach students how to apply general theoretical ideas about these themes to the contemporary Latin American experience. To do this well, the students will need 1) to study the political and historical experiences of specific Latin American countries, and 2) to learn how to compare these different cases with the aim of evaluating theoretical arguments and understanding why political outcomes differ from one country to the next. In the latter half of the course, we will focus on the cases of Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela, but we will also compare these cases to other Latin American countries.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Students are expected to complete all of the assigned reading on time, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions. If you miss a class, you should secure class notes from another student *and come to the next class prepared*. If you miss more than 4 classes without proper University documentation, your course grade will fall by one half of a letter grade per additional absence.

Written assignments include five short paper assignments, in-class quizzes, and an in-class final exam. Written assignments will not be accepted late without prior approval or proper University documentation. All papers will be submitted through the Blackboard website; instructions will be disseminated with the first assignment.

You should feel free to study together, to go over returned papers or study questions together, and to share lecture notes. But at no time should students communicate with each other in any way about pending writing assignments. Nor should students consult, copy, or cite any essays written on similar topics when developing their own written work. Your ideas and your responses to the questions asked of you should truly be your own.

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

10%	for class participation	= 10%
8%	for each of 5 short paper assignments	= 40%
4%	for each of 5 in-class quizzes	= 20%
30%	for the final exam	= 30%
TOTAL		= 100%

### **Electronic Devices**

Please do not use any electronic devices, including laptop computers, during class time.

### **Books and Readings**

The following books are available for purchase at the SU Bookstore (in the Schine Student Center):

Isabel Allende, *House of the Spirits*

Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women, Two Protests, and the Quest for Recognition*

Levy, Daniel C. and Kathleen Bruhn. 2006. *Mexico: the Struggle for Democratic Development*, second edition.

Moises Naim, *Paper Tigers and Minotaurs: The Politics of Venezuela's Economic Reforms*

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*

Copies of these books are also available in print form at the reserve desk at Bird Library. All other readings on the syllabus can be found in electronic form on the Blackboard website for the course. Look under the "Documents" link, where the articles are listed by author's last name and publication year. Where I have assigned a book or a large section of a book (several chapters), I am not allowed to post the material directly, and you must either purchase the book or use the paper copy at the reserve desk.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

There is no room for academic dishonesty in this class. I do submit formal reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences when I find that academic dishonesty or plagiarism has occurred. I encourage all students to update their understanding of what counts as academic dishonesty by visiting this website: <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>.

### **Disability-Related Accommodations**

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/>

### **Religious Observances**

SU's religious observances policy, found at [http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp\\_ben/religious\\_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm), recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

\*\*\* All students should feel free to discuss any of the issues \*\*\*  
mentioned on this page with me at any time.

## Daily Course Schedule

<u>Session</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic &amp; Readings</u>
1	Aug 25	<u>Introductory Lecture</u> Read: Isabel Allende, <i>House of the Spirits</i> , whole book, by September 10. <b>[bookstore or library reserve]</b>
2	Aug 27	<u>Traditional and Modern Societies</u> Read: Allende, <i>House of the Spirits</i> , keep reading.
***	Sept 1	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
3	Sept 3	<u>Mass Politics and Political Conflict</u> Read: Allende, <i>House of the Spirits</i> , keep reading.
4	Sept 8	<u>Political Conflict: Breakdown of Democracy</u> Read: Allende, <i>House of the Spirits</i> , finish book before class. QUIZ #1
5	Sept 10	<u>Conflict in Peru</u> Read: Ernesto Calderon (2001). “Peru’s Decade of Living Dangerously,” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 12:2, pp.46-58. IN CLASS FILM: <i>State of Fear</i>
6	Sept 15	<u>Political Conflict: Civil Wars and US Interventions</u> Read: Fagen, Richard (1987). <i>Forging Peace: The Challenge of Central America</i> . Read the 5 country summaries on pp.59-118. Alecio, Rolando (1995). “Uncovering the Truth: Political Violence and Indigenous Organizations” in <i>The New Politics of Survival</i> , Minor Sinclair, ed., pp.25-45.
7	Sept 17	<u>The Causes of Democratization I</u> Read: Lipset, S.M. (1959) “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy,” in <i>American Political Science Review</i> 53:1, pp.69-105. (concentrate on pp.69-85). Wiarda, Howard J. and Harvey F. Kline (2007). “Changing Political Culture”, in their <i>Concise Introduction to Latin American Politics and Development</i> , pp.31-50. PAPER #1 ASSIGNED
8	Sept 22	<u>The Causes of Democratization II</u> Read: Guillermo O’Donnell and Philippe Schmitter (1986), <i>Transitions from Authoritarian Rule</i> , pp.1-47, 65-72. <b>[bookstore or library reserve]</b> Thomas Carothers (2002) “The End of the Transition Paradigm” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 13:1, pp.5-21.

- 9            Sept 24            Institutions and Democratic Stability  
 Read: Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully (1995). "Introduction: Party Systems in Latin America," in Mainwaring and Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*, pp.1-34.  
 Scott Mainwaring (1999). "The Surprising Resilience of Latin America's Elected Governments," *Journal of Democracy* 10:3, pp.101-114.  
 QUIZ #2
- 10            Sept 29            Democratic Performance I  
 Read: Frances Hagopian (1996). "Traditional Power Structures and Democratic Governance in Latin America", in *Constructing Democratic Governance*, Domínguez and Lowenthal, eds., pp.64-86.  
 Steven Levitsky and Victoria Murillo (2013). "Building Institutions on Weak Foundations," *Journal of Democracy* 24:2, pp.93-107.  
 PAPER #1 DUE
- 11            Oct 1                Democratic Performance II  
 Read: Carlos Montaner (2000) "Culture and the Behavior of Elites in Latin America", in *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress*, Lawrence E. Harrison and Samuel P. Huntington, eds., pp.56-64  
 Valeria Brusco, Marcelo Nazareno, and Susan C. Stokes (2004). "Vote Buying in Argentina" *Latin American Research Review* 39:2, pp.66-88.  
 PAPER #2 ASSIGNED
- 12            Oct 6                The Rise of the Left in Latin America  
 Read: Matthew Cleary (2006). "A 'Left Turn' in Latin America? Explaining the Left's Resurgence." *Journal of Democracy* 17:4, pp.35-49.  
 Gustavo Flores-Macias (2010). "Statist vs. Pro-Market: Explaining Leftist Governments' Economic Policies in Latin America," *Comparative Politics*, pp.413-433.
- 13            Oct 8                Political Economy I: From ISI to Neoliberalism  
 Read: John Williamson (1990). "What Washington Means by Policy Reform," in *Latin American Adjustment: How Much Has Happened?* Washington, D.C.: The Institute for International Economics, pp.7-20.  
 Weyland, Kurt (2004). "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record." *Latin American Politics and Society* 46:1, pp.135-57.
- 14            Oct 13              Political Economy II: Why Reform is Politically Difficult  
 Read: Weyland, Kurt (1996). "Risk Taking in Latin American Economic Restructuring: Lessons from Prospect Theory", in *International Studies Quarterly* vol. 40, pp.185-208.  
 Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives*, pp.15-59. **[bookstore or library reserve]**  
 PAPER #2 DUE

- 15 Oct 15 Political Economy III: The Human Costs of Economic Reform  
 Read: Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives*, pp.60-100 [bookstore or library reserve]  
 QUIZ #3
- 16 Oct 20 Ethnicity, Identity, and Politics  
 Read: Telles, Edward, and Stanley Bailey. 2013. "Understanding Latin American Beliefs about Racial Inequality," *American Journal of Sociology* 118:6, pp. 1559-1595.  
 PAPER #3 ASSIGNED
- 17 Oct 22 Indigenous Political Mobilization  
 Read: Yashar, Deborah (1998). "Contesting Citizenship: Indigenous Movements and Democracy in Latin America," *Comparative Politics* 31:1, pp.23-42.  
 Madrid, Raúl (2005). "Indigenous Parties and Democracy in Latin America." *Latin American Politics and Society* 47:4, pp.161-79.
- 18 Oct 27 Chile: The Breakdown of Democracy and the Pinochet Regime  
 Read: Pamela Constable and Arturo Valenzuela (1991). *A Nation of Enemies: Chile Under Pinochet*, Chapters 1, 4, 6  
 PAPER #3 DUE
- 19 Oct 29 Chile: From the Democratic Transition to the Present  
 Read: Manuel Antonio Garretón (1995). "Redemocratization in Chile", *Journal of Democracy* 6:1, pp.146-158.  
 Kenneth Roberts (2011). "Chile: The Left After Neoliberalism," in *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, ed. Levitsky and Roberts, pp.325-347.  
 QUIZ #4
- 20 Nov 3 Mexico: The Era of the PRI  
 Read: Levy, Daniel C. and Kathleen Bruhn. 2006. *Mexico: the Struggle for Democratic Development*, Chapter 2. [bookstore or library reserve]  
 PAPER #4 ASSIGNED
- 21 Nov 5 Mexico: Political Contestation and Economic Crises, 1980-2000  
 Read: Levy, Daniel C. and Kathleen Bruhn. 2006. *Mexico: the Struggle for Democratic Development*, Chapter 3. [bookstore or library reserve]  
 Robert Pastor (2000) "Exiting the Labyrinth," *Journal of Democracy* 11:4, pp.20-24.
- 22 Nov 10 Mexico: Post-2000, post-PRI  
 Read: Levy, Daniel C. and Kathleen Bruhn. 2006. *Mexico: the Struggle for Democratic Development*, Chapter 4. [bookstore or library reserve]  
 Caputo, Philip. 2009. "The Fall of Mexico," *The Atlantic*. (Dec. 2009).  
 [continued on next page]

Andreas Schedler. 2014. "The Criminal Subversion of Mexican Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* 25:1, pp.5-18.

PAPER #4 DUE

- 23 Nov 12 Venezuela: Elite Democracy and its Eventual Breakdown  
Read: Naim, Moises (1993). *Paper Tigers and Minotaurs: The Politics of Venezuela's Economic Reforms*, chapters 2, 3, 4, and 6. **[bookstore or library reserve]**  
Coppedge, Michael (1994). "Prospects for Democratic Governability in Venezuela," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 36:2, pp. 39-64.

PAPER #5 ASSIGNED

- 24 Nov 17 Venezuela: Two Documentaries on Chavez  
Read: Gunson, Phil (2006). "Chávez's Venezuela," *Current History* 105:688, pp.58-63.  
Ramírez, Cristóbal Valencia (2005). "Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution: Who Are the Chavistas?" *Latin American Perspectives* 32:3, pp.79-97.  
IN CLASS FILM: We will view portions of two documentaries on contemporary Venezuela: *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (2002), and *The Hugo Chavez Show* (2008).

- 25 Nov 19 Venezuela: After Chávez  
Read: Miriam Kornblith (2013). "Chavismo after Chávez?" *Journal of Democracy* 24:3, pp.47-61.  
Rittinger, Eric, and Matthew Cleary (2013). "Confronting Coup Risk in the Latin American Left," *Studies in Comparative International Development* 48, pp.403-431.

PAPER #5 DUE

\*\*\* THANKSGIVING BREAK

- 26 Dec 1 The United States in Latin America  
Read: Hakim, Peter (2006). "Is Washington Losing Latin America?" *Foreign Affairs* 85:1, pp.39-53.  
Shifter, Michael. (2010). "Obama and Latin America: New Beginnings, Old Frictions," *Current History*, pp.67-73

QUIZ #5

- 27 Dec 3 Review for Final Exam

FINAL Dec 12, 12:45 – 2:45pm, Eggers 018