

Political Science 1321
Latin American Politics
Fall 2004 (05-1)

Instructor: Aníbal S. Pérez-Liñán
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Office hours: Wednesday and Friday 2:30 to 4:00 pm, and by appointment.

Class time and location: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00-1:50 p.m., LAWRN 105
Course web site: <http://courseweb.pitt.edu/>
Credit hours: 3.0 (CRN 41882)

Course Description:

This course offers a basic introduction to the dynamics of political regimes in Latin America. We will examine the main political issues of contemporary Latin America, the major forms of government in the region, and the ways in which social groups and classes participate in politics in order to address a central puzzle: Why was it so difficult to build stable democracies in Latin America during the Twentieth Century? In the first part of the semester we will discuss the historical experience of Latin American countries with democracy. In the second part, we will focus on different explanations for the emergence and survival of democratic regimes. We will use the analytical tools provided by political science to illuminate the political history of Latin America.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

1. Identify some of the major theories about the emergence and survival of democracy in developing countries,
2. Describe and compare different ways (e.g., populism, elite pacts, revolution) in which Latin American politicians attempted (and many times failed) to democratize their societies,
3. Analyze the different factors that may promote or hinder the survival of democracy in Latin America during the next decade, and
4. Discuss and evaluate alternative policies towards the region.

Readings:

John Charles Chasteen. 2001. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. New York: W.W. Norton. (ISBN: 0-393-97613-0)

Roderic Ai Camp, ed. 1996. *Democracy in Latin America. Patterns and Cycles*. Wilmington, Delaware: SR Books. (ISBN: 0-8420-2513-8)

Additional readings:

Access electronic journals through course web site ("Web Sites" section) or directly at <http://ug4fn7ck2h.search.serialssolutions.com/> (Search using the title of the *journal*)

Evaluation

Evaluation of your work is based on your preparation of the readings, your participation in class, an exam to be given on October 25, and a second exam on December 6. Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Reading 25%; Class Participation 15%; First exam 30%; Second exam 30%.

Readings (25%)

Starting on September 8, every Monday and Wednesday I will post two multiple-choice questions in the course web site (look under “Assignments”). The questions are very simple and they are intended to help you with the readings, they are not tests of your knowledge and they are not tricky. You are welcome to have the book in front of you as you answer them—but note that you will only have five minutes, so you need to do the readings before you log-in.

The quizzes will deal with the readings due on that date and must be answered by Wednesday and Friday at 5:00 p.m., respectively—after that time they will be removed from the web site. If you fail to answer the questions by that time (because you cannot connect to *courseweb*, you have not been able to do the readings on time, or any other reason) I will not be able to post “make-up” questions. However, every student in the class will be allowed to skip two quizzes (i.e., the equivalent of one week) so that unexpected problems with the server or any other complications will not hurt his or her grades. Servers occasionally go down and network problems may eventually prevent your answers from being recorded, so take advantage of this policy in a wise manner.

Because no quizzes will be posted on Fridays, readings due on a Friday may appear on the following Monday’s quiz.

Quizzes are graded in the following way: each question is worth 1 point, so you may collect 2 points for every quiz posted. At the end of the term I will add up all the points you have collected—this will be the numerator to determine the percentage of the answers correct. The denominator will be equivalent to the total number of points possible minus 4 points (two sessions) that you are allowed to miss. Let us say that you collected 20 points over the course of the term and that the maximum possible is 24. You would have a score of 100% or $20/(24-4)$.

Participation (15%)

I expect that we will have an engaging discussion in class and we will regularly have class activities designed to encourage your active participation. Sometimes I will anticipate the questions or issues that we will discuss in class so that you can prepare in advance. I will expect you to think about those questions seriously because we will address them during our meeting. Other times, I will give you small tasks (e.g., go on the web and find a news story on Latin America) that will laid the ground for the discussion in our next session. During that session, I may collect the output of the exercise (e.g., printouts of the news stories) as proof that you prepared for our meeting.

Exams (30% each)

Exams will typically consist of four essay questions. I will post a study guide on the course web site before each exam. Depending on the questions, I may decide to give the exams in class or as 48-hour take-homes.

Policies

Class attendance. Since this is an upper-level course I will not check class attendance, but please be aware that low attendance may hurt your participation grade and that some of the topics discussed in class will not be fully covered by the readings. If for any reason you are unable to attend a session you are responsible for covering the material.

E-mail policy. Students can reach me by e-mail and I will contact students using their Pitt e-mail accounts. If you use a different address, make sure that you forward all your messages. In order to protect student privacy, I do not e-mail grades. If you are not in class when I return exams or assignments, feel free to stop by during office hours and I will hand in your exam or paper in person.

Students with disabilities. If there are any students with disabilities who need accommodations for this course, please do not hesitate to contact me early in the semester. Also, make sure that you contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, at 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) (www.pitt.edu/~osaweb/drs/drs.html). DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Late assignments. Late assignments or exams will not be accepted unless previously authorized. I assume all students to be familiar with the *University of Pittsburgh Guidelines on Academic Integrity* (otherwise, check: <http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html>).

“W” Course. I will allow up to three people to take this course as a W every term. You must request authorization to do so before the end of the third week. Since this is not a W course, this option is available only for students with a previous interest in a particular aspect of Latin American politics who want to do extra work on the subject.

If you are taking this course as a W, I expect you to:

1. Define a research topic and a very specific research question. As mentioned above, I will only allow you to take this course as W if you are already interested in a particular subject. Thus, there is no “list” of possible topics; you must study something that you really care about.
2. Write a five-page proposal describing the general topic you want to address, identifying the specific research question, showing why this question is relevant, and explaining how other authors have dealt with this issue in previous research. The deadline for this short paper is October 11.
3. A draft of the complete paper is due by November 22. Your paper must 1) define a topic, identify the concrete question, and show the question's relevance; 2) review the existing literature to identify alternative answers to this puzzle; and 3) present the evidence (for a country, a set of countries, a historical period, whatever you chose to write on) in support of your answer to this problem.
4. I will return the paper with comments. You will have almost two weeks to revise the paper and return the final version by December 10. The final paper should be about 25 pages long. A research paper should not be a summary of other people's work--although it should start from there. You should identify a relevant question and provide an original answer for it.
5. At the very moment you sign in to take the course as a W, your grade will be distributed as follows: Reading 15%; Class Participation 15%; First Exam 20%; Second Exam 20%; Paper 30%. If you can't finish the paper for any reason I will not go back to the original grading scheme; it is your responsibility to complete the work.

Class Schedule

Historical Background

Monday, August 30 - Introduction

No readings.

Wednesday, September 1 – **No class: APSA Annual Conference / No office hours today**

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 1)¹

Friday, September 3 – **No class, APSA Annual Conference / No office hours today**

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 2)

Monday, September 6 – **No class, Labor day**

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 3)

Wednesday, September 8 – The Wars of Independence [*First quiz posted on-line*]

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 4)

Friday, September 10 – Politics in the 19th Century

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 5)

Monday, September 13 – Politics in the 19th Century

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 6)

Wednesday, September 15 – Politics in the 19th Century

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 7)

Friday, September 17 – The Spanish-American War

-- **Download guided notes from the course website and bring them to class --**

Readings: Library of Congress: “The World of 1898”

www.locweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/

Patterns of Failed Democratization, 1930-2004

Populism

Monday, September 20 – Mass Politics

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 8)

Wednesday, September 22 – Populism: Peronism

Readings: Ranis, Peter. 1979. “Early Peronism and the Post-Liberal Argentine State.”

Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs 21 (3): 313-338

Download from Electronic Journals (JSTOR database)

Friday, September 24 – Peronism

Readings: Little, Walter. 1973. "Party and State in Peronist Argentina, 1945-1955." *The*

Hispanic American Historical Review 53 (4):644-662.

Download from Electronic Journals (JSTOR database)

Revolution and Repression

Monday, September 27 – The Age of Revolution

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 9)

Recommended:² Williamson, Edwin. 1992. "Cuba: Dependency, Nationalism and

Revolution." Chapter 12 in *The Penguin History of Latin America* (pages 436-58). London: Allen Lane.

¹ Readings from Chasteen’s book are labeled “Chasteen (2001)” with an immediate reference to the corresponding chapter.

² “Recommended Readings” are not mandatory and will not be included in the quizzes.

Wednesday, September 29 – Revolution: Cuba

Readings: Dominguez, Jorge I., and Christopher N. Mitchell. 1977. "The Roads Not Taken: Institutionalization and Political Parties in Cuba and Bolivia." *Comparative Politics* 9 (2):173-195.

Download from Electronic Journals (JSTOR database)

Friday, October 1 – Military Regimes

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 10)

Monday, October 4 – Military Rule: Brazil, 1964-1985

Readings: Weis, W. Michael. 1997. "Government News Management, Bias, and Distortion in American Press Coverage of the Brazilian Coup of 1964." *Social Science Journal* 34 (1):35-55.

(Download from electronic journals -- *Expanded Academic ASAP*:

http://monitor.library.pitt.edu:9696/articles/database_info/exp_academ.html)

Wednesday, October 6 – The Age of Revolution: Brazil, 1964-1970

-- **Download guided notes from the course website and bring them to class --**

Readings: Alves de Abreu, Alzira. 1997. "Brazil's Guerrilla Trap." *History Today* 47 (12):35-41.

(Download from electronic journals -- *Expanded Academic ASAP*)

Friday, October 8 – Foreign Policy Dilemmas: Brazil, 1969

-- **Download guided notes from the course website and bring them to class --**

Barreto, Bruno. 1997. *Four Days in September*. Burbank, CA: Miramax Films and Pandora.

Recommended: Wright, Thomas C. 2001. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*. Westport: Praeger. (Chapter 3: Fidelismo and the Radicalization of Latin American Politics).

Elite Pacts

Monday, October 11 – Mass Politics in Colombia, 1930-1957

Readings: Stoller, Richard. 1995. "Alfonso Lopez Pumarejo and Liberal Radicalism in 1930s Colombia." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 27 (2):367-397 (download)

Wednesday, October 13 – Coalition Rule, 1958-1974

Readings: Hartlyn, Jonathan. 1984. "Military Governments and the Transition to Civilian Rule: The Colombian Experience of 1957-1958." *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 26 (2):245-281 (download)

Friday, October 15 – Colombia after the National Front

Readings: Hartlyn, Jonathan. 1984. "Military Governments..."

Monday, October 18 – The 1980s: Transitions to Democracy

Readings: Remmer (1990) [Camp, ch. 13]³

Wednesday, October 20 – The 1980s: The Debt Crisis

Readings: Remmer (1990) [Camp, ch. 13]

Friday, October 22 – **Review session**

Monday, October 25 – **First Exam**

Wednesday, October 27 – The 1990s: Neoliberal Reform

Readings: Chasteen (2001, ch. 11)

³ Articles from Camp's reader are labeled with the author's surname and year of the original publication, followed by a reference to the chapter in the reader.

Friday, October 29 – The End of the Failed Pattern of Democratization?
Mainwaring, Scott. 1999. "The Surprising Resilience of Elected Governments." *Journal of Democracy*, 10(3):102-14 (Download)

Explaining the Patterns of Failed Democratization

Poverty

Monday, November 1 – Four Theories of Latin American Politics
Readings: Klaren (1986) [Camp, ch. 5]
Wednesday, November 3 – Modernization
Readings: Malloy (1977) [Camp, ch. 6]
Friday, November 5 - Dependency
Readings: Malloy (1977) [Camp, ch. 6, cont.]

Culture

Monday, November 8 – The Hispanic Legacy
Readings: Dealy (1992) [Camp, ch. 3]
Wednesday, November 10 – The Catholic Tradition
Readings: Levine (1987) [Camp, ch. 8]
Friday, November 12 – Beyond Stereotypes: How to study culture
Readings: Seligson (1990) [Camp, ch. 4]

Civilian Leaders

Monday, November 15 – Do leaders matter?
Readings: Karl (1990) [Camp, ch. 2]
Wednesday, November 17 – The Case of Venezuela
Readings: Karl, Terry Lynn. 1987. "Petroleum and Political Pacts: The Transition to Democracy in Venezuela." *Latin American Research Review* 22(1):63-94 (Download)
Friday, November 19 – The Case of Venezuela (cont.)
Readings: Sylvia, Ronald D., and Constantine P. Danopoulos. 2003. "The Chávez Phenomenon: Political Change in Venezuela." *Third World Quarterly* 24 (1):63-76 (Download)

The Military

Monday, November 22 – The Army in Politics
Readings: Varas (1990) [Camp, ch. 7]
Wednesday, November 24 – **Thanksgiving Break**
Friday, November 26 – **Thanksgiving Break**

Monday, November 29 – Conditional Subordination?
Readings: Varas (1990) [Camp, ch. 7, cont.]
Wednesday, December 1 – International Factors
Friday, December 3 – **Review session**

The Future of Latin America

Monday, December 6 – **Second Exam**
Wednesday, December 8 – A New Pattern of Political Instability?
Pérez-Liñán, Aníbal. 2002. "Argentina and the New Pattern of Political Instability in Latin America." Download from Courseweb (Course Documents).
Friday, December 10 – Conclusions

