

Political Science 1302
Political Development
Spring 2005 (05-2)

Instructor: Aníbal S. Pérez-Liñán

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Class time and location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; 4625 Posvar Hall

Course web site: <http://courseweb.pitt.edu/>

Credit hours: 3.0 CRN 28497

Course Description:

This W course will examine the major problems involved in the study and understanding of change in the “less developed countries,” the main approaches and theories applied to these problems and the criticisms directed at some of these approaches. We will consider theories of modernization, the impact of social and economic development on politics, and the role of political institutions in shaping social and economic change.

This is a “hands-on” research course. We will emphasize independent research and writing more than lectures and exams. I will cover in class the theoretical foundations of the relationship between development and democracy and will give you the analytical tools (research procedures, statistical instruments) that we need to explore those issues. Throughout the term you will: 1) study the history of a particular country; 2) collect systematic evidence on the evolution of democracy in that country; and 3) analyze the country’s political development. Your grade will be based on the quality of this work--as opposed to your capacity to memorize concepts before the exam.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this semester, you will:

1. Understand the foundations of modernization theory in political science.
2. Know the history of a specific country and be able to apply modernization theory to that historical trajectory.
3. Gain command of some of the basic statistical tools for social and political analysis.
4. Become familiar with research procedures and standards in political science, after having a first-hand experience in a research project.
5. Improve your writing skills.

Readings:

Articles: Download from Hillman’s Electronic Journal web page

(<http://www.library.pitt.edu/articles/journals/>).

Independent Readings: Each student will be required to do independent reading in order to understand the history of a particular country during the 20th century. Students will be responsible for identifying, obtain, and do the respective readings under the guidance of the instructor.

Evaluation

Evaluation of your work is based on your class participation in the seminar sessions, the development of a list of governments and a bibliography, five historical reports on a given Latin American country, a systematic assessment of the history of democracy in one country (a database on democracy), and an analytical report about the relationship between economic development and democracy in that country and in Latin America as a whole. *There are no exams.* Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Participation in Seminar Meetings	15%
List of Governments (due 1/13)	5%
Bibliography (due 1/20)	10%
Preliminary Reports (1/27; 2/3)	10%
Historical Reports (five)	35%
Database (3/25)	10%
Final Reports and Presentation (4/12)	15%

Seminar Participation (15%)

At least once a week (and occasionally twice) the class will meet as a seminar. This means that we will read and discuss a classical article in the study of political development. For the most part I will not lecture during these meetings, but I will address questions to the group to direct the discussion and summarize our conclusions. I expect you to participate in the discussion actively, and will grade your participation based on the frequency and the quality of your class interventions. (As a rough guideline, consider the following scale: A=Regular participation, showing good understanding of the material; B=Scattered participation with good understanding of the readings; C=Regular participation but poor understanding of the material; D=Little participation and poor understanding of the readings).

Grading of Research Assignments

I have established high standards for this course. Make sure that you fulfill all the requirements for the assignments described below.

Assignments:

1. List of Governments (due Jan. 13)

This assignment is intended to familiarize you with the rulers of the country throughout the 20th century. To complete the assignment:

1. Go to <http://www.worldstatesmen.org/> to find the list of presidents for your country during 1900-2004.
2. Download the Template and the Guidelines to Complete the Database from the course web site. The Excel spreadsheet (“Template”) has the following structure:
 - Each row represents one of the presidents in the country (for which you must collect information). Each column represents some piece of information to be collected:
 - The first column indicates the three-letter code for your country (see the list of country codes in the Instructions).
 - In the second column you must enter a unique code for each presidential administration (see instructions).
 - In the third and fourth columns you must indicate the years when the president took office and when he or she left.
 - You may ignore columns labeled Y1 and Y2 for the moment.

- In the seventh column enter the name of the president.
- Make sure you save the new spreadsheet, since you will add information to this template throughout the term.

2. Preliminary Bibliography (due Jan. 20)

The goal of this assignment is for you to develop an initial list of readings (books and articles) about the history of a single country. This assignment will be graded according to the number and quality of sources selected, and according to the quality of the presentation. *For the details about this assignment download the guidelines from the course website.*

Sources: In order to search for books, use the library catalog (PittCat). In order to search for articles, use J-Stor, the Hispanic-American Periodicals Index (HAPI) or the Social Sciences Citation Index (access through course website).

3. Preliminary Reports (due Jan. 27 and Feb. 3)

The two preliminary reports are “rehearsals” for the coming historical report dealing with the period 1900-1919. In the first rehearsal, due on January 27, you must assess the administrations in office during 1900-1919 in terms of the transparency of the electoral process to select the president and the members of congress, and the inclusiveness of the franchise. In the second rehearsal, due on February 3, you must assess the government’s respect for civil liberties and the capacity of the officials to exercise their constitutional powers. A revised version of these two reports will constitute the first historical report, due on

The two preliminary reports and the five historical reports will be always composed of two parts:

1. A short historical summary (2-5 pages) in which you must briefly summarize the information presented by each of the sources (books or articles) with regards to each administration. Based on this information, you must explain why you classified the administrations in the way you did.
2. A table (copy of your Excel Template) showing one line for each source that refers to each administration (see the template for a couple of examples).

4. Historical Reports

Due dates:

1900-1919	February 10
1920-1939	February 17
1940-1959	February 24
1960-1979	March 3
1980-2004	March 17

The historical reports are short research notes covering around two decades in the life of a country. In them, I expect you to assess the administrations in office during this period in terms of: 1) the transparency of the electoral process (if any) to select the president and the members of congress; 2) the inclusiveness of the franchise; 3) respect for civil liberties; and 4) the capacity of the elected officials to exercise their constitutional powers.

See the course website for the details about how to organize the historical reports. Make sure that you always save the template in Excel format. In the end, the collection of information for 1900-2004 will give you a complete overview of the history of the country.

If I detect problems of historical interpretation in the historical report, you will have the opportunity to revise the assignment. Revisions will be due the following week, together with the next report.

5. Country Database, 1900-2004 (March 25)

The “country dataset” is the revised Excel template, complete with all the information for your particular country between 1900 and 2003. You must e-mail me a copy of this file before March 19. I will collect the information for each country and put it together into a large database that will become available for all the students through the course web site.

6. Research Report and Presentation (April 12)

The research report is an analysis of the relationship between economic and political development for Latin America as a whole and for your country in particular. It must be around five pages long, including the tables and figures. I will ask you to make a 5-10 minute in-class presentation tying the results with the history of your country. *Look at the course website for details on how to present this assignment.*

Schedule and Readings

Week 1

1. Thursday, January 6 – **Introduction**

Research Schedule: January 11 is the deadline to let me know if you are interested in any particular country. I will try to accommodate individual preferences as much as possible.

Week 2

2. Tuesday, January 11 – **Modernization and Democracy**

Read: Lipset, Seymour M. 1959. "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy." *The American Political Science Review* 53 (1): 69-105.

Research Schedule: By the end of this week, each member of the research team will be in charge of one country. *Download instructions for the first assignment from the course web site.*

3. Thursday, January 13 – **Measurement and Hypothesis-Testing**

Research Schedule: List of Governments (1900-2003) due.

Week 3

4. Tuesday, January 18 – **Seminar: Measuring Democracy in Latin America**

Read: Mainwaring, Scott, Daniel Brinks, and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. 2001. "Classifying political regimes in Latin America, 1945-1999." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36 (1):37-65.

5. Thursday, January 20 – **Many Voices: The Problem of Historical Uncertainty**

Research Schedule: Preliminary bibliography due. *Download instructions for Preliminary Assessments.*

Week 4

6. Tuesday, January 25 – **Seminar: Free, Fair, and Inclusive Elections**

Read: Markoff, John. 1999. "Where and When was Democracy Invented?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 41 (4):660-690.

7. Thursday, January 27 – **Seminar: Assessing Elections**

Research Schedule: Preliminary Assessment of Elections (1900-1919) due.

Week 5

8. Tuesday, February 1 – **Seminar: Civil Liberties and Democracy**

Read: Swisher, Carl Brent. 1940. "Civil Liberties in War Time." *Political Science Quarterly* 55 (3):321-47.

9. Thursday, February 3 – **Seminar: Assessing Civil Liberties**

Research Schedule: Preliminary Assessment of civil liberties and power (1900-1919) due.

Week 6

10. Tuesday, February 8 – Seminar: Modernization Theory in Latin America

Read: Needler, Martin C. 1968. "Political Development and Socioeconomic Development: The Case of Latin America." *The American Political Science Review* 62 (3):889-897.

11. Thursday, February 10 – Criticisms of Modernization Theory

Research Schedule: Historical Report (1910-1919) due.

Week 7

12. Tuesday, February 15 - Seminar: Dependency and Development

Read: Dos Santos, Theotonio. 1970. "The Structure of Dependence." *American Economic Review* 60 (2):231-36.

13. Thursday, February 17 - Transitions and Breakdowns

Research Schedule: Historical Report (1920-1939) due.

Week 8

14. Tuesday, February 22 – Seminar: Foundations of Democracy

Read: Rustow, Dankwart A. 1970. "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model." *Comparative Politics* 2 (3):337-63.

15. Thursday, February 24 –

Research Schedule: Historical Report (1940-1959) due.

Week 9

16. Tuesday, March 1 – Seminar: Coups and the Breakdown of Democracy

Read: Needler, Martin C. 1966. "Political Development and Military Intervention in Latin America." *The American Political Science Review* 60 (3):616-626

17. Thursday, March 3 –

Research Schedule: Historical Report (1960-1979) due.

Week 10

18. Tuesday, March 8 – No class

19. Thursday, March 10 – No class

Week 11

20. Tuesday, March 15 - Seminar: Methods for Scientific Research

Read: Lijphart, Arend. 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method." *The American Political Science Review* 65 (3):682-693.

21. Thursday, March 17 – The Comparative Method

Research Schedule: Historical Report (1980-2004) due.

Week 12

22. Tuesday, March 22 – Seminar: An Example of Quantitative Analysis

Read: Merx, Gilbert W. 1973. "Recessions and Rebellions in Argentina, 1870-1970." *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 53 (2):285-295.

23. Thursday, March 24 – Regression Analysis

Research Schedule: Complete Spreadsheet due (e-mail me the spreadsheet before 5 p.m.).

Week 13

24. Tuesday, March 29 – Seminar: Regression Analysis

Read: Cutright, Phillips. 1963. "National Political Development: Measurement and Analysis." *American Sociological Review* 28 (2):253-264 (download from Hillman's Electronic Journal web page).

25. Thursday, March 31 – Regression Analysis

Research Schedule: I will make the Complete Country Dataset available on the course website.

Week 14

26. Tuesday, April 5 – Seminar: "Waves" of Democratization

Read: Doorenspleet, Renske. 2000. "Reassessing the Three Waves of Democratization." *World Politics* 52 (3):384-406.

27. Thursday, April 7 – Results of the Research Project: Waves

Research Schedule: we will schedule the presentations for weeks 15 and 16.

Week 15

28. Tuesday, April 12 – Seminar: Research Presentations

Research Schedule: Final Reports due.

29. Thursday, April 14 – Seminar: Research Presentations

Week 16

30. Tuesday, April 19 – Seminar: Research Presentations

31. Thursday, April 21 – Seminar: Research Presentations