

Political Science 407Z
Special Topics:
The Political Economy of Social and Health Policy in Latin America

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This course examines the political economy of social and health policy in Latin America. The course is divided into two major parts. In the first part of the course, we will discuss the changing social and economy context in which social and health policies are formulated and implemented in Latin America. The first part of the course also provides an overview of some of the major theoretical approaches that have been developed to explain the politics of social policy reform in the region. The second part of the compares examples of policy reform across selected countries in Latin America, with a focus on education, health, poverty alleviation, social security and housing.

Requirements, Grading, and Other Policies

Lecture and Discussion: The class will meet Tuesday through Thursday from 4-5:15 in Wright Hall C235 for lectures and discussion. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for discussion.

Exams and Grades: There will be two exams: a mid-term exam (October 4) and a final exam (December 11, 6-8PM in Wright C235). The exams use an essay format. In addition, students are required to submit a research paper (approximately 10-12 pp. in length) on November 20. The mid-term exam counts for 25% of your final grade; the final exam and the paper each count for 35%, with the remaining 5% from participation.

Make-up exams will be given only if the student can demonstrate she/he was absent due to illness or participation in an official university function. Students must provide an excuse in writing from a licensed health care provider or from a university administrator.

University Policy for Students with Disabilities: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require special arrangements to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Pursuant to UNLV policy, students must present appropriate verification from the Disability Resource Center in order to receive accommodations (Room 137, Reynolds Student Services Center; 895-0866 [TDD 895-0652]).

Observance of Religious Holidays: Students who miss class due to observance of a religious holiday shall be given the opportunity to make up the missed work. Please notify the instructor no later than the first week of class if you will miss class because of observance of a religious holiday.

Contact via E-mail: A new UNLV policy requires students to use Rebelmail accounts when they contact faculty via e-mail. As the official e-mail system for students, Rebelmail is available to all students who have been admitted to the university. Non-matriculated students should contact the Office of Information Technology at UNLV students for assistance.

Course Readings

Most of the required readings for this course are on reserve in the Lied library and are accessible through the web at <http://ereserves.library.unlv.edu/>. E-research readings are designated “ER” in the syllabus. Some readings are also available through the Project Muse, JSTOR and Academic Search Elite databases in the University library; to obtain access to these databases, direct your web browser to <http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/eralpha.php> Readings from the articles databases are marked “Project Muse;” “JSTOR” or “Academic Search Elite” in the syllabus. I will give instructions in class on accessing readings from the library.

Schedule of Readings and Lectures

8/28	Introduction	No Reading
8/30-9/6	The Changing Environment of Policy-Making in Latin America	Chris Abel and Colin Lewis, “Exclusion and Engagement: A Diagnosis of Social Policy...” in ER. R.K.Harper and A. Cuzán, “The Economies of Latin America.” In ER
9/11-9/18	Explanations of Policy Reform: Systemic and Domestic Level Theories	Raul L. Madrid, “Ideas, Economic Pressures, and Pension Privatization,” <u>Latin American Politics and Society</u> 47 (2005) in Project Muse Database. Merilee Grindle, “Despite the Odds: The Political Economy of Social Sector Reform in Latin America” (2002), in ER. Francisco Armada, Carles Muntaner, and Vicente Navarro, “Health and Social Security Reforms in Latin America.” In ER.
9/20	Reforming Education in Latin america: An Overview	Marcial Boó, “Ideology and Education.” in ER. Andrew Nickson, “Education Reform in Latin America: Decentralization or Restructuring?” in ER
9/25-10/2	Education: Case Studies	Todd Fletcher et al., “The Changing Paradigm of Special Education in Mexico,” <u>Bilingual Education Journal</u> (2003) http://brj.asu.edu/content/vol27_no3/art3.pdf Carlos Ornelas, “The Politics of Privatisation, Decentralisation and Education Reform in Mexico,” <u>International Review of Education</u> , v50 n3-4 (July 2004) p397-418, in Article First Database.

		Ernesto Schiefelbein and Paulina Schiefelbin, "Paradoxes of the Chilean Education Reform, 1989-2000," in ER. Suggested: R. D. Heckock, "Electoral Competition, Globalization and Subnational Education Spending in Mexico," <u>American Journal of Political Science</u> (2005), in Article First Database.
10/4	Exam 1	
10/9-10/11	Health Policy Reform in Latin America: Overview	Antonio Ugalde, Nuria Homedes and Anthony Zwi, "Globalisation, Equity and Health in Latin America," in ER. Sylvia Chant, "Gender and Health," in ER.
10/16-10/18	Health Reform: Case Studies	Peter Lloyd –Sherlock, "Health, Equity and Social Exclusion in Argentina and Mexico," in ER. Reading on Venezuela's health care system, TBA. Suggested: Asa Cristina Laurell, "What Does Latin American Social Medicine Do When It Governs? The Case of the Mexico City Government" <u>American Journal of Public Health</u> December 2003, Vol 93, No. 12
10/23-10/25	Health Policy & the Demographic Transition in Latin America	Sylvia Chant, "Gender and Population," in ER.
10/30-11/1	Family Planning, Education and the Demographic Transition	Maureen Rand Oakley and Emilio A. Rodríguez, "Family Planning Policy in Latin America: Rights, Development and Values," <u>Policy Studies</u> 26, no. 2 (2005), in Article First Database. Teresa Castro Martin, "Women's Education and Fertility: Results from 26 Demographic and Health Surveys," <u>Studies in Family Planning</u> 26, no. 5 (1995), in JSTOR database.
11/6-11/8	Income Security: Poverty Alleviation & Basic Needs	Alicia Puyana, "Rural Poverty and Policy: Mexico and Colombia Compared," in ER. Anthony Hall, "From <i>Fome Zero</i> to <i>Bolsa Familia</i> : Social Policies and Poverty Alleviation under Lula," <u>Journal of Latin American Studies</u> 38 (2006): 689-709, in Article First Database Suggested: Jennifer Pribble, "Women and

		Welfare: The Politics of Coping with new Social Risks in Chile and Uruguay,” <u>Latin American Research Review</u> 41, no. 2 (2006), pp. 85-108.
11/13-11/20	Social Security Programs in Comparative Perspective	<p>Carmelo Mesa-Lago, “Social Security In Latin America: Pension and Health Care Reforms in the Last Quarter Century,” <u>Latin American Research Review</u> 42, no.2 (2007) 181-201, in Project Muse Database.</p> <p>Carmelo Mesa-Lago "Private and Public Pension Systems Compared: An Evaluation of the Latin American Experience." <u>Review of Political Economy</u> 18 (3) 2006: 317–334, in Article First Database</p> <p>Claes Brundenius, “Cuba: Retreat from Entitlement?” in ER.</p> <p>Research papers due 11/20</p>
11/22	Thanksgiving	
11/27-11/29	Housing Policy	<p>Alan Gilbert, “Housing Policy and Legal Entitlements: Survival Strategies of the Urban Poor,” in ER.</p> <p>Bryan Roberts, “Citizenship, Social Policy and Population Change,” in ER.</p>
12/4	Discussion Groups— Research Paper Findings	Discussion
12/6	Course Conclusion	
12/11	Final Examination	