

Political Science 407E
Politics in Latin America
Spring 2009

John P. Tuman
Wright Hall A-212
Phone: 895-3754
email: john.tuman@unlv.edu
Office Hours: M&W 1:00-2-30, or by appointment

This course examines the politics of contemporary Latin America. In the first part of the course, we will discuss competing theories of democratization in Latin America, examine challenges facing Latin America's new democracies, and analyze the politics of economic reform in the region. The second part of the course provides an in-depth, comparative study of politics in selected countries, with a focus on Mexico, Brazil, Cuba and Venezuela.

Requirements

Lecture and Discussion: The class will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 10:00-11:15 in BEH 212 for lectures and discussion. Students are expected to finish all of the assigned readings and to be prepared for group discussion. Participation counts for 5% of the final grade.

Exams, Papers, and Grading: The mid-term exam will be given **March 2**. The final exam is on **May 4, from 10:10 to 12:10PM in BEH 212**. In addition, students are required to write a short research paper (10-12 pp.); instructions for the paper are listed in the Appendix of this syllabus. The paper is due on **April 15**. Exam 1 and the paper each count for 30% of the final grade, while the final exam each counts for 35% of the final grade.

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]).

For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>

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

Contact via E-mail: UNLV policy requires students to use Rebelmail accounts in order to contact faculty by 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 with opening a Rebelmail account.

Texts

The required books for this course are:

Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost, eds. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Peter H. Smith. *Democracy in Latin America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)

In addition, some 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 “E-Reserves” in the syllabus. Some readings are also available through the JSTOR and Academic Search Elite, or Project MUSE databases in the University library (Article First and JSTOR are located at <http://www.library.unlv.edu/search/eralpha.php> .These readings are marked with “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

1/12-1/14 Introduction
Vanden & Prevost (hereafter V&P), chapter 1

1/19-1/26 Classifying Political Regime Types in Latin America
Note: 1/19 is a holiday
Smith, pp. 1-43
Sørensen, “What is Democracy?” in E-Reserves.

Recommended: David Collier and Steven Levitsky, “Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research” *World Politics* 49, no. 3, April 1997, pp. 430-451, available in Project MUSE.

1/28-2/4 Explaining Democratization in Latin America: Competing Theories
Smith, chapters 2-4.

Recommended for further reading for week of 1/28:
Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring (editors), *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

2/9-2/18 Problems of New Democracies in Latin America
Note: 2/18 is a holiday
Smith, chapters 8-11.

V&P, chapters 4-5

2/23-2/25 Politics of Economic Reform in Latin America: Contrasting Outcomes and Support Levels for Reform

V&P, ch. 7

Evelyn Huber and Fred Solt, "Successes and Failures of Neoliberalism," *Latin American Research Review* 39, no. 3, 2004, pp. 150-164, in Project Muse database.

Suggested for further reading for week of 2/23-2/25:

Beatriz Magaloni and Vidal Romero, "Partisan Cleavages, State Retrenchment, and Free Trade: Latin America in the 1990s," *Latin American Research Review* 43, no. 2 (2008) pp. 107-135

Glen Biglaiser and Karl DeRouen, "The Expansion of Neoliberal Economic Reforms in Latin America." *International Studies Quarterly* 48, no. 3 (2004): 561-578

Kurt Weyland, "The Political Fate of Market Reform in Latin America, Africa, and Eastern Europe," *International Studies Quarterly* 42, no. 4 (2002).

3/2 Mid-Term Exam

3/4-3/9 Case Studies: Mexico

Nora Hamilton, "Mexico", in V&P, pp. 54-55, 301-315

Charles R. Greer et al., "The State of the Unions in Mexico," *Journal of Labor Research* 28, no. 1 (2007), in Article First database.

3/11-3/16 Case Studies: Mexico

V&P, "Mexico," pp. 315-337

Chappel Lawson, "How Did We Get Here? Mexican Democracy after the 2006 Elections" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40, no. 1 (2007): 45-48, in Article First database.

BBC News, "Mexico Drug Gang Killings Surge," December 9, 2008, available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/7772771.stm>

3/18-3/23 Case Studies: Brazil

Wilber Albert Chafee, "Brazil," in V&P, pp. 369-382

3/25-3/30 Case Studies: Brazil

Wilber Albert Chafee, "Brazil," in V&P, pp. 382-391

Anthony Hall, "From Fome Zero to Bolsa Família: Social Policies and Poverty Alleviation under Lula," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 38, no. 4 (2006): 689-709 in Article First database

BBC News, "Brazil Squares Up to Economic Storm," October 20, 2008, available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/7680709.stm>

Suggested for further reading for week of 3/25:

Cesar Zucco, "The President's New Constituency: Lula and the Pragmatic Vote in Brazil's 2006 Presidential Elections," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 40, no. 1 (2008): 29-49

4/1 Case Studies: Cuba

Gary Prevost, "Cuba" in V&P pp. 339-354

4/6-4/8 **Spring Break**

4/13-4/15 Case Studies: Cuba

Note: Research paper is due on 4/15

Gary Prevost, V&P, pp. 354-365

Emily Morris, "Cuba's New Relationship with Foreign Capital: Economic Policy-Making since 1990," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 40, no. 4 (November 2008): 769-772 in Article BBC News, "Keeping Cuba on the Economic Road," December 29, 2008, available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7795388.stm>

Recommended for further reading for week of 4/13-4/15:

Javier Corrales, "The Gatekeeper State: Limited Economic Reforms and Regime Survival in Cuba: 1989-2002," *Latin American Research Review* 39, no. 2 (2004), pp. 35-58, in Article First database

4/20 Case Studies: Venezuela

Daniel Hellinger, "Venezuela," in V&P, pp. 463-478

4/20-4/27 Case Studies: Venezuela

Hellinger, "Venezuela," in V&P, pp. 478-490

Kirk A. Hawkins and David Hansen, "Dependent Civil Society: The Círculos Bolivarianos in Venezuela," *Latin American Research Review* 41, no. 1 (2006), in Project Muse database.

4/29 Conclusion

5/4 Final Exam, 10:10-12:10, BEH 212

APPENDIX

PSC 407E. Instructions and Guidelines for the research paper.

1. The paper should be 10-12 pp. in length, excluding the title page and bibliography. Please make sure the paper is double-spaced, with reasonable margins, and use a 12 point font size.
2. You may use any citation style that you like (e.g., Chicago, MLA, APA, etc.). However, you must use the citation style consistently throughout the paper.
3. The research for the paper should be drawn primarily from the scholarly, peer-reviewed literature on Latin America and the Caribbean. Focus on scholarly journal articles and books. Some useful journals include: *Latin American Research Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *World Development*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Political Research Quarterly*. There are many other journals that could be consulted; check the library databases. If you need to collect data on social and economic indicators, consult secondary sources that are published by regional or international organizations (e.g., World Bank, the Inter-

American Development Bank, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, etc.).

4. A maximum of two sources may come from the internet. This limit does not apply to (a) content from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals, books, or databases with quantitative data available from our library via the internet, or (b) to content from news outlets. In special cases – for example, on topics that involve very recent developments – I may approve more than two internet sources.

For all internet sources, pay very close attention to indicators that the source is accurate (is there some mechanism for peer review). I strongly discourage students from relying upon Wikipedia.

5. You must provide photocopies of all pages from sources. These photocopies must be turned in with the paper. For books or reports, provide a copy of the title page of the book and any pages that are referenced. For journal articles, provide a copy of the first page and any other pages referenced. For internet sources, provide a copy of the top page (with current URL) and any other pages that are cited in your paper.

6. The topic of the paper should be on the domestic politics of a selected country (or countries) in Latin America. You may do a case study of one country, or a comparison of two (or more) countries. If you do a comparative analysis, keep in mind that this is a short paper assignment.

7. You must turn in a printed copy of your paper (along with the photocopies of your sources). I will not accept papers that are sent via e-mail.