

**Political Science 238**  
**Contemporary Latin American Politics**  
**Spring 2017**

11-12:15pm Tuesday & Thursday  
Peabody 0311

Instructor: Zoila Ponce de León

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-5 at the FedEx Global Education Center Café (**EspressoOasis**)

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**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the study of Latin American politics. It is aimed at students with no prior knowledge of the area or the study of comparative politics, but a desire to understand how Latin American governments are organized and the major problems faced by these societies. This makes it important to go beyond the stereotypes that have traditionally shaped the perceptions of the region's history, culture, and economic, political, and social structures. There is an enormous diversity within the region in terms of histories of colonization, ethnic composition, levels of economic development and human welfare, and systems of government. This course will provide an overview of this diversity and a deeper examination of several cases, including: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

**Course Requirements**

The course will meet twice a week in plenary session. The requirements for the course are first and foremost regular class attendance, reading of the assigned materials, and active participation in class discussions.

**Attendance** is obligatory. You have one unexcused absence and I will excuse your absence in reasonable cases. However, you need to contact me ahead of the class session that you miss. **If you miss more than 4 classes without prior and valid excuse, as assessed through random attendance sheets, you will fail this course.**

I expect everyone to extend me and the rest of the class the basic courtesy of **arriving on time**. I understand that life is complicated but late arrivals are disruptive and distracting and so I appreciate your cooperation.

Please come to office hours or contact me by e-mail if you have questions or concerns. If you have any kind of problem with the course or with life, please **communicate** with me. Let me know if my office hours are not at a convenient time for you and we will set an appointment. Do not let missed classes and assignments get out of hand. I am willing to work with you to help you succeed, but I cannot do so retroactively at the end of the semester. To be clear: I will let you know when you have accumulated 4 absences and will automatically give you a failing grade if

you miss another one. There is a lot we can do early in the semester and very little once the semester is finished.

Students are expected to come to each session **ready for a lively discussion** that will help us all better understand historic and contemporary trends in Latin America.

The following are some guidelines to help you get started:

- **Speak up!** Ask the second you have a question or a comment. It is very possible that others may have the same concerns you do.
- **Respect** one another. Differences of opinion are likely and also desirable, and this can provide an opportunity for intellectual development. **Listen to other students'** questions, express your disagreements with respect and value your colleagues' opinion as if they were your own.
- **Turn off your cell-phones.**
- **Stick to pen and paper** to take notes and forget about your computers.

### **Course Evaluation**

Participation	25%
Midterm exam	20%
Final paper	30%
Final exam	25%

### **Exams**

The midterm will be an in-class written exam consisting mainly of short-answer questions. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, IDs, and short-answer questions.

### **Paper**

Each student in the class must write a 10-pages analytic paper due on **April 21**. The analytic papers have to be double-spaced, no larger than 12-point font, and they should be no longer than 10 pages. You will need to consult a minimum of 5 scholarly sources other than materials presented in class. I encourage you to seek the help of the Writing Center if this is your first or second research paper.

I will post a list of suggested paper topics and instructions on Sakai. If you have an idea for a topic that would interest you more, **you must clear this topic with me** before you start working on it. An abstract (one or two paragraphs stating the question you will pursue and how you will do it) and an outline of the paper will be due on **March 9**.

The paper must be a thoughtful discussion of the readings. It can be a criticism of the arguments made by one or more authors, it might derive implications of the readings for other topics

(related to the class), or it might develop questions for further research. The paper should not be a literature review or summary of the readings.

I will penalize **late papers**, with one letter grade per day late. I will consider papers late if they are turned in after the beginning of class on the day they are due.

### **Honor Code**

For all course work, the Honor Code applies. The student's signature on her/his work confirms that the Code rules were respected. Familiarize yourself with the Code at <https://studentconduct.unc.edu/honor-system>. You also need to familiarize yourself with the concept and practice of plagiarism in order to make sure that you avoid it. Plagiarism is defined as deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.

Take the library's tutorial at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism/> and ask me if you have any questions.

### **Makeups**

There are no makeup exams. Examinations, if missed, can only be made up if (1) a student confronts sickness or medical emergency, or (2) if there are other extenuating circumstances that the instructor deems justifiable. In the case of sickness/medical emergency, the student will be required to present written and verifiable documentation from appropriate medical personnel. In the case of other extenuating circumstances, the instructor will require similar documentation appropriate to the situation. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

### **Important dates:**

February 21	Midterm
March 9	Paper Abstract & Outline
April 21	Final Paper Due
May 1	Final Exam

### **Course Book**

We will use Modern Latin America, by Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith, and James N. Green; **8th edition**; available in the Textbook Department of the UNC Student Stores.

I will post the remaining required readings on Sakai.

### **Course Schedule**

Please note that I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule, including assignments due dates and test dates (excluding the officially scheduled final exam), when unforeseen circumstances occur.

January 12: Class Overview and Introduction to Latin America

January 17: Latin America's Diversity

Skidmore, Smith and Green 3-15

January 19: Historical Foundations: From Conquest to Independence I

Skidmore, Smith and Green 16-43

January 24: Historical Foundations: From Conquest to Independence II

Matthew Lange, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau, "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies." *American Journal of Sociology* 111, No. 5 (March 2006).

January 26: Politics of Development I: Import-export growth, ISI and populism

Skidmore, Smith and Green 343-354

Duncan Green, "State versus Market: The Rise and Fall of Import Substitution," in Kingstone, Peter R., 2006. *Readings in Latin American Politics: Challenges to Democratization* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.).

January 31: Politics of Development II: Crisis and the stagnation of ISI

Skidmore, Smith and Green 376-386

Collier, David. 1979. "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model," in David Collier (ed.) *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

February 2: Neoliberalism & Economic Reform

Skidmore, Smith and Green 358-369

Weyland, Kurt. 1998. "Swallowing the Bitter Pill: Sources of Popular Support for Neoliberal Reform in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies*. 31.5: 539-563.

February 7: Guest lecture by Emily Carty

Readings on Sakai

**February 9: Class canceled**

February 14: Consequences of Neoliberalism

Huber, Evelyne and Fred Solt. 2004. "Success and Failures of Neoliberalism," *Latin American Research Review*. 39.3: 150-164.

February 16: A Historical Look at Democracy in Latin America

Smith, Peter. 2005. "Cycles of Electoral Democracy" in *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*.

**February 21: Midterm Exam**

February 23: Case Study: Argentina

Skidmore, Smith and Green 236-267

February 28: Case Study: Brazil

Skidmore, Smith and Green 296-340

March 2: Catch-up and Review

March 7: Transitions to Democracy

Smith, Peter. 2005. "Transitions and Continuities" in *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*.

Mainwaring, Scott and Frances Hagopian. 2005. "The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America," in Hagopian, Frances and Scott Mainwaring eds. *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. 1-13.

March 9: Case Study: Chile

Skidmore, Smith and Green 268-295

**Paper Outline Due**

**March 14 & 16: Spring Break**

March 21: Case Study: Mexico

Skidmore, Smith and Green 47-78

March 23: Group Work and Discussion of Paper Assignment

March 28: Political Institutions I: Presidentialism in Latin America

Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, "Juan Linz, Presidentialism, and Democracy: A Critical Appraisal." *Comparative Politics* 29, No. 4 (July 1997), pp. 449-463, 469.

March 30: Political Institutions II: Political Parties and Representation

Mainwaring, S., 2006. The crisis of representation in the Andes. *Journal of democracy*, 17(3), pp.13-27.

April 4: The Left Turn in Latin America

Steven Levitsky and Kenneth M. Roberts, ed. 2011. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 1-26 (Introduction) and 399-427 (Conclusion).

April 6: The Importance of Programmatic Parties

Kenneth M. Roberts. 2012. "Market Reform, Programmatic(De-)Alignment, and Party System Stability in Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies* 46, No. 11.

Kitschelt, Herbert et al. 2010. *Latin American Party Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-13 (Introduction).

April 11: Social Policy in Latin America

Stein, E., 2006. *The politics of policies: Economic and social progress in Latin America 2006 Report*. Harvard University Press. (Chapters 1 & 2)

April 13: Case Study: Venezuela

Skidmore, Smith and Green 219-243

Roberts, K., 2012. Populism and democracy in Venezuela under Hugo Chávez. *Populism in Europe and the Americas: Threat or Corrective for Democracy*, pp.136-59.

April 18: Case Study: Peru

Skidmore, Smith and Green 142-166

April 20: US-Latin American Relations

Skidmore, Smith and Green 431-459

**April 21: Paper Due (upload to Sakai)**

April 25: Case Study: Cuba

Skidmore, Smith and Green 112-141

April 27: Review Session