

Latin American Politics

Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Political Science Department
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Not intended as a definitive version

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Location: Classroom.

Office Hours: Make an appointment [here](#).

Class Website and Materials: click [here](#).

Overview and Objectives

This **undergraduate-level course** is intended as an introduction to Latin American politics from a comparative politics view. The papers and chapters will draw from what call 'the core' that defines this important area of research.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Acquire an understanding of the main democratization and development theories in Latin America.
- Use the comparative method and analysis in the political science literature.
- Consume 'critically' the Latin American politics literature.

Requirements

In this course we will cover the key concepts and theoretical debates in a very large sub-field in political science. Students will be expected to complete the required readings each week, attend the lectures, participate in class discussions and take careful notes. When reading the class materials, you should locate the main argument, strengths, weaknesses, and other issues that are of concern. As you read through the material, think about the following questions: *What is the cause and what is the effect? What makes the theory 'move,' is it individuals? institutions? (ir)rationality? Does/do the author/s have a strong research design/methodology to support the paper's argument?*

Evaluation

- **Two midterm papers:** 25 %.
- **Final exam paper:** 25 %.
- **Participation:** 25 %.

Academic Integrity

In accordance with Rutgers University policy on Academic Integrity, you are expected to fully comply with the school's policies. Please see this [link](#).

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require accommodation should review the following statement from the Office of Disability Services [link](#).

Absence from Exams

Only a note from your college dean stipulating a medical or family emergency will be acceptable as an excuse for missing an exam. If at all possible, I need to be notified before the exam of your inability to take it. Absence from an exam because of travel plans will not be excused.

Office Hours

I have an open-doors policy, feel free to stop by my office at any time. However, you might want to minimize the risks that I am not there. I advice you then to schedule time with me using my automatic scheduler. I think fixed office hours do not work because ... well, they are fixed. I prefer flexibility. Hence, you can see me any day/time that's available during the week. Do not send me a reminder as I will receive an alert: If the time spot is available, I am happy to see you there. Please follow this [link](#).

Cell Phones

Make sure your cell phones are turned OFF before entering class.

Schedule

1. History of Latin America

- Collier, R.B., and Collier, D., *Shaping the Political Arena*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991, 3-20, 27-55, 59-68, 93-106, 161-172, 196-201, 271-272, 314-315, 353-367, 403-406, 438- 439, 469, 498-513, 571-573, 639, 692-693, 745-774.
- Rueschemeyer, D., Stephens, E.H., and Stephens, J.D., *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992, 155-225.

2. State-Building and Development

- Sokoloff, K. L. and S. L. Engerman. "Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14, No. 3 (2000): 217-232.
- Mahoney, J. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), Chapter 1.
- Centeno, M., *Blood and Debt: War and the Nation-State in Latin America* (Penn State University Press, 2002), 1-26, 33-47, 261-280.
- Soifer, H. *State Building in Latin America* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), chapter 2.
- Kurtz, M., *Latin American State-Building in Comparative Perspective: Social Foundations of Institutional Order*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-65).

3. Development Strategies I

- Bulmer-Thomas, V., *The Economic History of Latin America since Independence*, 3rd edition (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 296-318, 330-345, 383-390, 413-422
- Prebisch, R., "International Trade and Payments in an Era of Coexistence: Commercial Policy in the Underdeveloped Countries," *The American Economic Review* 49 no. 2 (May 1959): 251- 273.

- Hirschman, A.O., "The Political Economy of Import-Substituting Industrialization in Latin America," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 82 no. 1 (February 1968): 1-32.
- Bahamonde, H. "Structural Transformations and State Institutions in Latin America, 1900-2010." 2016.
- Roxborough, I., "Inflation and Social Pacts in Brazil and Mexico," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 24 (October 1992): 639-664.

4. Development Strategies II

- Haggard, S., and Kaufman, R.R., *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions*. Princeton University Press, 1995, pp. 3-20, 151-218, 227.
- Geddes, B., "The Politics of Economic Liberalization," *Latin American Research Review* 30 no. 2 (1995): 195-214.
- Schamis, H. "Distributional Coalitions and the Politics of Economic Reform in Latin America." *World Politics* 51, No. 2 (1999): 236-268.
- Flores-Macias, G. "Statist vs. Pro-Market: Explaining Leftist Governments' Economic Policies in Latin America." *Comparative Politics* 42, No. 4 (July 2010): 413-433.

5. Democratic Instability and Authoritarianism

- O'Donnell, G., *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism*. Institute of International Studies, University of California-Berkeley, 1973, pp. 53-114.
- Schamis, H.E., "Reconceptualizing Latin American Authoritarianism in the 1970s: From Bureaucratic Authoritarianism to Neoconservatism," *Comparative Politics* 23 no. 2 (January 1991), pp. 201-216.
- Magaloni, B., *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico* (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp. 1-28, 44-81.
- Dunning, T., *Crude Democracy: Natural Resource Wealth and Political Regimes* (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp. 1-25 and 152-209.

6. Contemporary Democracy, New Challenges

- Haggard, S., and Kaufman, R., "The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions." *Comparative Politics* 29, No.3 (April 1997): 285-303.
- Mainwaring, S. and A. Perez-Linan. 2014. *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chapters 1, 2, and 4.
- O'Donnell, G., "Delegative Democracy," *Journal of Democracy* 5 no. 1 (1994), pp. 55-69.
- Levitsky, S. and J. Loxton, "Populism and Competitive Authoritarianism in the Andes." *Democratization* 20, No. 1 (2013): 107-136.

7. Party Politics in Latin America I

- Dix, R.H., "Cleavage Structures and Party Systems in Latin America," *Comparative Politics* 22, No. 1 (October 1989): 23-37.
- Roberts, K. and Wibbels, E., "Party Systems and Electoral Volatility in Latin America: A Test of Economic, Institutional, and Structural Explanations." *American Political Science Review* 93, No. 3 (September 1999), pp. 575-590.
- Lupu, N. "Brand Dilution and the Breakdown of Political Parties in Latin America." *World Politics* 66, No. 4 (October 2014): 561-602.

- Roberts, K. "Market Reform, Programmatic (De) alignment, and Party System Stability in Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies* 46, No. 11 (2013): 1422-52.
- Handlin, S. "Social Protection and the Politicization of Class Cleavages during Latin America's Left Turn," *Comparative Political Studies* 46, No. 12: 1582-1609.

8. Party Politics in Latin America II

- Schaffer, J., and Baker, A., "Clientelism as Persuasion-Buying: Evidence from Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies* 48:9 (2015): 1093-1126.
- Bahamonde, H. "Aiming Right at You: Group vs. Individual Clientelistic Targeting in Brazil." 2017.
- Hidalgo, F. D., and Nichter, S., "Voter Buying: Shaping the Electorate through Clientelism," *American Journal of Political Science* 60, no. 2 (April 2016): 436-455.
- Holland, A. C., and Palmer-Rubin, B., "Beyond the Machine: Clientelist Brokers and Interest Organizations in Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies* 48:9 (2015): 1186-1223.
- Weitz-Shapiro, R., "What Wins Voters: Why Some Politicians Opt Out of Clientelism," *American Journal of Political Science* 56:3 (July 2012): 568-583.