

**GOV 328L / LAS 337M (38900 & 40229)**  
**INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
(Fall 2021)

Prof. Raúl Madrid

Office: Batts 3.112

Course meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in RLP 0.130

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m. By appointment only via Zoom.

E-mail: [rmadrid@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:rmadrid@austin.utexas.edu)

Tel: (512) 232-7246

Teaching Assistant: Kendall Curtis: [kendall\\_curtis@utexas.edu](mailto:kendall_curtis@utexas.edu)

This course will provide a basic introduction to the evolving politics of Latin America. We will explore the roots of the major political and economic trends that have swept Latin America during the last century. The trends analyzed range from populism and revolutionary movements to democratization and neoliberal reform. We will also examine the politics of ethnicity, gender, religion, and the environment in the region. The first section focuses on Latin American political history. The second section examines authoritarianism and democracy in the region. The third section analyzes some of the main social and economic challenges currently facing the region. Although the course will focus on issues affecting Latin America as a whole, some lectures and readings will examine how these trends affected individual countries within the region.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Grades will be assessed based on three in-class examinations, a research paper, and 12 quizzes. There is no final exam for this course, and attendance will not be used in determining your final grade. The first two in-class examinations will be worth 25 points and will consist of multiple choice and short answer or essay questions. These in-class examinations will only cover the material discussed since the previous exam. The third exam will be worth 15 points and will consist exclusively of multiple-choice questions. The research paper, which is also worth 15 points, must focus on a contemporary issue in Latin American politics. The quizzes will be worth 2 points each. Quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop two of the 12 quizzes in calculating your final grade, so the quizzes will be worth a total of 20 points. In order to calculate your final grade, I will sum all of the points you have received in the class and convert the points into letter grades using the following scale:

93-100 = A

90-92 = A-

87-89 = B+

83-86 = B

80-82 = B-

77-79 = C+

73-76 = C

70-72 = C-

67-69 = D+  
63-66 = D  
60-62 = D-  
Below 60 = F

I will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. I do not allow extra credit assignments and no exceptions will be made to the above system of converting points into letter grades. Students who wish to contest a grade must do so in writing within two weeks of the day on which I returned the exam or paper.

**Religious holidays:** Students who need to miss a class due to a religious holiday should notify me at least fourteen days prior to the holiday. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Disability accommodations:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

**Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information on academic integrity and plagiarism please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

**Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:** No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

**Class Recordings:** Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

#### **TEXTS:**

Hillman, Richard S. and Thomas J. D'Agostino, eds. Understanding Contemporary Latin America. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2011, 4th edition.

Smith, Peter H. Democracy in Latin America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 3rd edition. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition is fine too.)

A course packet of additional readings will be available on Canvas.

The materials for this class are available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students. You are automatically opted into the program but can easily opt-out (and back in) via Canvas through the 12<sup>th</sup> class day. If you remain opted-in at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> class day you will receive a bill through your "[What I Owe](#)" page and have until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> class day to pay and retain access. If you do not pay by the 18<sup>th</sup> class day, you will lose access to the materials after the 20<sup>th</sup> class day and your charge will be removed. More information about the LTA program is available at <https://www.universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access>

## **WEEKLY READINGS**

### **Week 1 (Aug. 26) Introduction to Latin America: People, geography, and politics**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 1 "Introduction"

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 2 "Latin America: A Geographical Preface".

## **I. LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY**

### **Week 2 (Aug. 31 and Sept. 2) Pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 3 "The Historical Context".

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 4 "Latin American Politics".

Coatsworth, John. 1998. "Economic and Institutional Trajectories in Nineteenth-Century Latin America." In Coatsworth and Alan M. Taylor eds. Latin America and the World Economy since 1800. Harvard University Press, pp. 23-54 ([Canvas](#)).

### **Week 3 (Sept. 7 and 19) Populism and Industrialization**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 6 "The Economies of Latin America".

Drake, Paul W. "Conclusion: Requiem for Populism?" In Michael L. Conniff, ed. Latin American Populism in Comparative Perspective. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982, pp. 217-245. ([Canvas](#)).

## **Weeks 4-5 (Sept. 14, 16 and 21) Revolutionary Movements**

Crahan, Margaret E. and Peter H. Smith. "The State of Revolution." In Alfred Stepan, ed. Americas: New Interpretative Essays. Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 79-108. ([Canvas](#)).

Wickham-Crowley, Timothy. "Winners, Losers and Also-Rans: Toward a Comparative Sociology of Latin American Guerilla Movements." In Susan Eckstein, ed. Power and Popular Protest. Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 1989, pp. 132-181. ([Canvas](#)).

### **Sept. 23: 1<sup>st</sup> Examination**

## **II DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM IN LATIN AMERICA**

### **Weeks 6-7 (Sept. 28 and 30 and Oct. 5) Military regimes**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Chapter 5 "The Military."

Collier, David. "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In Collier, ed. The New Authoritarianism in Latin America. Princeton University Press, 1979, pp. 19-32. ([Canvas](#)).

Valenzuela, Arturo. "Chile: Origins, Consolidation, and Breakdown of a Democratic Regime." In Larry Diamond, Juan J. Linz, and Seymour Martin Lipset, eds. Politics in Developing Countries: Comparing Experiences with Democracy. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1990, pp. 39-87. ([Canvas](#))

Stepan, Alfred. "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil." In Linz and Stepan eds., The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978, pp. 110-137. ([Canvas](#))

### **Week 7-8 (Oct. 7, 12 and 14) Democracy and Democratization in Latin America**

Smith, Introduction and Chs. 1-4, pp. xvii-xxxii, and 1-117.

### **Week 9 (Oct. 19 and 21) Democratic Institutions**

Smith, Chs. 5-7, pp. 121-209.

John M. Carey, "Presidentialism and Representative Institutions." In Jorge Domínguez and Michael Shifter, eds. Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003: 11-42. ([Canvas](#))

## **Week 10 (Oct. 26 and 28) Consolidation of Democracy**

Smith, Ch. 8-12 and epilogue, pp. 213-349.

### **Nov. 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Examination**

## **III CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS**

### **Week 11 (Nov. 4). Urbanization, Crime and the Environment**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 8, "The Environment, Population and Urbanization".

Briceño-León, Roberto, and Verónica Zubillaga. 2002. "Violence and Globalization in Latin America." *Current Sociology* (January) 50, 1: 19-37. ([Canvas](#))

### **Week 12 (Nov. 9 and 11). Crisis and social and economic reform**

Edwards, Sebastian. *Crisis and Reform in Latin America: From Despair to Hope*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995, Chs. 1-3, pp. 1-65. ([Canvas](#))

Corrales, Javier. 2016. "Neoliberalism and Its Alternatives." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 133-157. ([Canvas](#))

Birdsall, Nancy, Nora Lustig, and Darryl McLeod. 2016. "Declining Inequality in Latin America: Some Economics, Some Politics." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 158-180. ([Canvas](#))

### **Week 13 (Nov. 16 and 18). Women and politics in Latin America**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 10 "Women, Work, and Politics".

Htun, Mala. "Women and Democracy." In Jorge Domínguez and Michael Shifter, eds. Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003: 118-136. ([Canvas](#))

Baldez, Lisa. "Gender." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 319-332. ([Canvas](#))

**Week 14 (Nov. 23). Race, ethnicity and politics in Latin America.**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 9 "Patterns of Race, Ethnicity, Class and Nationalism".

Madrid, Raúl L., 2016. "Obstacles to Ethnic Parties in Latin America." In Steven Levitsky et al, eds. *Challenges to Party-Building in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 305-330. (**Canvas**)

Johnson III, Ollie A. 2016. "Race, Politics, and Afro-Latin Americans." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 302-318. (**Canvas**)

**Nov. 23. Research paper due in class**

**Week 15 (Nov. 30). Religion and politics in Latin America**

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 12 "Religion in Latin America."

Pew Research Center. *Religion in Latin America: Widespread Change in a Historically Catholic Region*. Washington: Pew Research Center, 2014: Overview, pp. 4-29. (**Canvas**)

**Dec. 2: 3rd Examination**