

GOV 328L / LAS 337M (38260 & 39570)
INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
(Fall 2023)

Prof. Raúl Madrid

Office: Batts 3.112

Course meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in MEZ B0.306

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Batts 3.112

E-mail: rmadrid@austin.utexas.edu

This course, which carries the Global Cultures flag, 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 race and ethnicity, gender, crime and corruption, and development and inequality in the region. The first section of the course focuses on Latin American political history. The second section examines recent waves of authoritarianism and democracy. The third section analyzes some of the main social and economic issues currently facing the region. Although the course will focus on issues that have shaped Latin America as a whole, some lectures and readings will examine how these trends affected individual countries.

REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be assessed based on two mid-term examinations, one final examination, and 12 quizzes. The mid-term examinations (Sept. 21 and Oct. 31) will be worth 25 points each and will not be cumulative—that is, they will only cover the lectures delivered and readings assigned since the previous exam. The final examination (Dec. 8), which will count for 30 points, will be cumulative. Both the mid-term and the final examinations will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short answer/essay questions. In addition, there will be 12 in-class pop quizzes, which will be worth 20 points. Quizzes cannot be made up, but I will drop two of the 12 quizzes in calculating your quiz grade. I use plus/minus grading. 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 within two weeks of the day on which I returned the exam.

This class is using the Lectures Online recording system. This system records the audio and video material presented in class for you to review after class. Links for the recordings will appear in the Lectures Online tab on the Canvas page for this class. You will find this tab along the left side navigation in Canvas.

To review a recording, simply click on the Lectures Online navigation tab and follow the instructions presented to you on the page. You can learn more about how to use the Lectures Online system at <http://sites.la.utexas.edu/lecturesonline/students/how-to-access-recordings/>.

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: If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to the student conduct process and potential disciplinary action. A student found responsible for academic misconduct may be assigned both a status sanction and a grade impact for the course. The grade impact could range from a zero on the assignment in question up to a failing grade in the course. A status sanction can range from probation, deferred suspension and/or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>

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.

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 could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

University Resources for Students: The following is a link to the Canvas website that provides a list of important resources for students: [University Resources for Students Canvas site](#)

TEXTS:

Carey, Henry, ed. Understanding Contemporary Latin America. 5th Edition. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2022.

Munck, Gerardo L. and Juan Pablo Luna. Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Additional readings will be available on Canvas, as noted below.

This course is part of the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, which is designed to make textbooks more affordable. The following is a description of how the program works reproduced nearly verbatim from an email the program distributed to faculty:

Each enrolled student is automatically enrolled in the program to start. This program is OPTIONAL; however, you must ACTIVELY OPT-OUT if you do not wish to participate, in order to not be billed. LTA ensures you are receiving your course materials at a reduced price, however purchasing your course materials through LTA is not required; you can purchase required course materials anywhere. Opting out of LTA will disconnect your access to the course materials which may include access to graded homework assignments, but where you purchase the required materials is your decision. If purchasing them elsewhere, be sure you are purchasing exactly the course materials specified by your Professor, including any online support materials (homework manager, study guide, etc.)

If you need access to the required materials, they will be available to you in a digital format through the “My Textbooks” tab in your class’s Canvas site on or before the first class day.

To opt-out, go to Canvas and select “My Textbooks” and then “opt-out.” If you are opted-in at the end of the 5th class day (August 25th), you will be billed for these materials through your “What I Owe” page. You can opt-out and opt-in as many times as you’d like up until the end of the 12th class day (September 6th). You have through the 20th class day (September 18th) to pay your What I Owe bill. If you do not pay your What I Owe bill by September 18th, your charge will be removed and you will lose access to the course materials.

For information on opting-out, billing, and the LTA program, visit universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access

WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1 (August 22 and 24) Introduction to Latin America: People, Geography, and Politics

Munck and Luna, "Introduction," pp. 1-13.

Munck and Luna, "Latin America in Perspective: Lessons and Prospects," pp. 547-551.

Carey, Ch. 1 "Introducing Latin America," pp. 1-10.

Carey, Ch. 2 "Latin America: A Geographical Preface," pp. 11-38.

Carey, Ch. 14 "Looking Forward," pp. 435-451.

I. LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Week 2 (August 29 and 31) Pre-20th Century Latin America

Carey, Ch. 3 "The Historical Context," pp. 39-90

Munck and Luna, Ch. 1 "The State and State Capacity," pp. 17-44.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 2, "Nation-Building, Race and Ethnicity," pp. 49-78.

Week 3 (Sept. 5 and 7) Populism and Industrialization

Munck and Luna, Ch. 3 "Political Regimes and Democracy," pp. 82-117.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 4 "Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare," pp. 123-159.

Carey, Ch. 6 "The Economies of Latin America," pp. 143-184.

Weeks 4-5 (Sept. 12, 14, and 19) 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](#)).

Thursday, Sept. 21: 1st Midterm Examination

II DEMOCRACY AND AUTHORITARIANISM IN LATIN AMERICA

Weeks 6-7 (Sept. 26, 28, and Oct. 3) Military regimes

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. 5, 10 and 12) Democracy and Democratization in Latin America

Carey, Ch. 4 "Latin American Politics," pp. 91-120.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 5 "Democracy and the Quality of Democracy," pp. 165-197.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 9 "Transitional Justice," pp. 310-345.

Week 9 (Oct. 17 and 19) Consolidation of Democracy

Munck and Luna, Ch. 8 "The Protection of Civil Rights" pp. 273-304.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 12 "Social Rights in Law and Reality," pp. 431-460.

Week 10 (Oct. 24 and 26) Democratic Institutions

Munck and Luna, Ch. 7 "Political Parties and the Citizen-Politician Link," pp. 238-266.

Smith, Peter H. and Cameron J. Sells. Democracy in Latin America 3rd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. Chapters 5-6. pp. 121-178. ([Canvas](#))

Tuesday, Oct. 31: 2nd Midterm Examination

III CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Week 11 (Nov. 2). Race and Ethnicity in Latin America

Carey, Ch. 9 "Social, Political and Cultural Identities," pp. 257-296.

Madrid, Raúl L. "Obstacles to Ethnic Parties in Latin America." In *Challenges of Party-Building in Latin America*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016: 305-330. ([Canvas](#))

Week 12 (Nov. 7 and 9). Women and Politics in Latin America

Carey, Ch. 10 "The Roles of Women," pp. 297-336.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 6, "Political Inclusion and Institutional Innovations," pp. 201-233.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 14 "Basic Social Inclusion and Social Policy," pp. 489-515.

Week 13 (Nov. 14 and 16). Crisis, Reform, and Sustainable Development

Munck and Luna, Ch. 13 "Sustainable Development and Neoextractivism," pp. 464-485.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 15 "Unequal Democracies," pp. 517-542.

Carey, Ch. 8 "Environmental Challenges," pp. 227-256.

Nov. 20-25: Fall Break

Week 14 (Nov. 28 and 30). Crime and Corruption and Wrap-Up Lecture.

Carey, Ch. 5 "Crime and Security," pp. 121-142.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 10 "High-Level Corruption," pp. 350-382.

Munck and Luna, Ch. 11 "The New Violence: Homicide, Drugs and the State," pp. 386-422.

Final Examination: Friday, Dec. 8 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.