

GOV 328L / LAS 337M & (38570 & 39995)
INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
(Spring 2021)

Prof. Raúl Madrid

Office: Batts 3.112

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

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

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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 race/ethnicity, gender, religion, urbanization, crime and the environment in the region. The first section focuses on Latin American political history from the pre-colonial era to 1980. The second section examines the democratization process beginning in the 1980s and 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:

This course will be entirely online. The lectures and Power Point slides will be posted on Canvas on the Panopto tab. You can listen to the lectures at your convenience, but you should do the reading and listen to the lectures before the weekly quizzes. We will have a weekly Question and Answer session typically on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. before you take the weekly quiz at 4:30 p.m. Office hours and the Question and Answer sessions will be conducted via Zoom.

Grades will be assessed based on two examinations, a research paper, and 12 quizzes. There is no final exam for this course. The examinations, which will be worth 30 points each, will be take-home exams and will consist of essay and/or short answer questions. You may use any written or online sources during these exams, including the course readings, Power Points and your own notes, but you should not discuss the exam with each other or receive assistance from anyone. The examinations will only cover the material discussed since the previous exam. The research paper will be worth 20 points. You may use exclusively internet sources for the paper.

In addition, there will be quizzes each week on Canvas on the lectures/readings. You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz and you will need to take the quizzes on the date and time indicated, which will typically be on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. You may use any written or online sources to answer the quizzes but you should not discuss the quizzes with each other or receive assistance from anyone. Each quiz will be worth 2 points. I will drop your lowest two scores on the 12 quizzes in calculating your final grade, so the maximum score you can earn on the quizzes

is 20 points. Pop quizzes cannot be made up or retaken.

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

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. and Cameron Sells. Democracy in Latin America. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 3rd edition.

Optional: Winn, Peter. Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2006, 3rd Edition.

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

WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1 (Jan. 19-22) 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".

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

Optional: Winn, Chapter 1 "A View from the South".

I. LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Week 2 (Jan. 25-29) Pre-20th Century Latin America

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

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](#)).

Przeworski, Adam. 2016. "Latin American Political Regimes in Comparative Perspective." In

Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 542-563. ([Canvas](#))

Optional: Winn, Chapters 2-3 "Legacies of Empire" and "Perils of Progress."

Quiz 1: Thursday, Jan. 28 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 3 (Feb. 1-5) 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](#)).

Optional: Winn, Chapter 4, "A Second Independence".

Quiz 2: Thursday, Feb. 4 at 4:30 p.m.

Weeks 4-5 (Feb. 8-16) 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](#)).

Optional: Winn, Chapter 13, "Making Revolution".

Quiz 3: Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 5-6 (Feb. 17-26) 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](#))

Optional: Winn, Chapter 5 "Capital Sins".

Quiz 4: Thursday, Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m.

1st Exam is distributed on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. and is due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2.

II. DEMOCRATIZATION AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICA

Week 7-8 (March 3-12) Democracy and Democratization in Latin America

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

Quiz 5: Thursday, March 11 at 4:30 p.m.

Spring Break (March 15-19)

Week 9 (March 22-26) 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](#))

Quiz 6: Thursday, March 25 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 10 (March 29 – April 2) Consolidation of Democracy

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

Quiz 7: Thursday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 11 (April 5-9). 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](#))

Quiz 8: Thursday, April 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 12 (April 12-16). U.S.-Latin American Relations, Crime and the Environment

Hillman and D'Agostino, Ch. 7, "International Relations."

Smith, Peter H. 2016. "U.S.-Latin American Relations: Power, Politics, and Cooperation." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 200-223. ([Canvas](#))

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](#))

Brinks, Daniel M. 2016. "A Tale of Two Cities: The Judiciary and the Rule of Law in Latin America." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 61-75. ([Canvas](#))

Quiz 9: Thursday, April 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 13 (April 19-23). Gender, religion 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](#))

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](#))

Optional: Winn, Ch. 9-10, "In Women's Hands" and "The Power and the Glory."

Quiz 10: Thursday, April 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Week 14 (April 26-30) Ethnicity, Race and Politics in Latin America

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

Lucero, José Antonio. "Indigenous Politics: Between Democracy and Danger." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. New York: Routledge, pp. 285-301. ([Canvas](#))

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](#))

Hooker, Juliet. 2005. "Indigenous Exclusion/Black Exclusion: Race/Ethnicity and Multicultural Citizenship in Latin America." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 37: 285-310. ([Canvas](#))

Optional: Winn, Ch. 6-8 "Continent on the Move," "Children of the Sun" and "A Question of Color."

Quiz 11: Thursday, April 29 at 4:30 p.m.

2nd Exam is distributed at 5 p.m. on April 29 and is due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4.

Week 15 (May 3-7) Concluding Thoughts

No assigned reading

Quiz 12: Thursday, May 6 at 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 10. Research paper due