

University of Florida
Department of Political Science
CPO 3303 - Introduction to Latin American Politics
LAS 3930 - Special Topics in Latin American Studies
Fall 2023

Professor: Juliana Restrepo Sanín, Ph.D.

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM (period 4) , Thursday 10:40 AM - 12:35 PM (period 4&5)

Room: [CSEE121](#)

Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00 - 3:30, Anderson Hall, room 011, and by appointment.

Contact: via Canvas

Course Description & Goals

This course explores the stark changes that have occurred in Latin America, at the end of the 20th century until today. We begin our course with an overview of Latin American history and then focus on the military dictatorships that took over several countries starting around the 1970s. Then we will focus on understanding why these authoritarian regimes ended and how countries began a long process of democratization. In this analysis, we will examine the role of political elites and organized citizens in bringing about the end of authoritarianism and shaping the democratic institutions that were created then, including the neoliberal economic policies adopted and their effects.

After analyzing the transition period, we will focus on the so-called 'left turn': what caused it? How did it develop? And what have been its effects? Afterward, we study the Left turn and its effects and conclude with a module thinking about the challenges ahead.

While exploring the region's contemporary political changes, we pay attention to the role of women, indigenous groups, Afrolatinxs, and other marginalized groups in promoting these transformations.

The class uses a combination of theory and case-study analysis. Throughout the semester we will discuss current events and documentaries, and how they are related to the topics discussed.

Learning goals

By the end of this course, students will:

Understand the nature of political change in the last forty years in Latin America

Analyze how the inclusion of gender, race, ethnicity, and class as categories of analysis challenges traditional concepts and theories in Political Science.

Interpret the nature of political change in Latin America and how the adoption of neoliberal policies in the 1980s and 1990 led to the rise of populism in the 2000s.

Grading & Assessment

Assignments

Assignment	Points	Due
Syllabus exam	5	Aug 24, 2023
Class notes	20 (10 points each)	Twice during the semester. Assigned at the beginning of the class by the instructor
Current events	15	Any class, three times during the semester
Reading discussion, small group activities, pop quizzes, and class participation	15	
Exams (3 total)	45 total (15 each)	First exam: Sept. 29 Second Exam: Oct. 20 Third exam: Dec. 6
Total	100	

Syllabus exam - 5 points

There will be an online, multiple choice syllabus quiz. The quiz is due on August 27 at 11:59.

Class notes: 20 points

At the beginning of each class, the professor will assign 2-4 people to write a class report. These reports should be uploaded to Canvas by 11:59 of the day of the class. Rather than simply a description of what happened in class, the reports must reflect on the relationship between the day's readings and the class lecture. They should include the most significant debates or questions raised in class discussion as well as the most important points or concepts debated in class. They will not be graded unless uploaded to Canvas.

Current events: 15 points

We will begin each class with a discussion of current events in Latin America. Each student should bring news reports related to the topics discussed in class **at least three times** during the semester. It is not enough to read the headline, you should be able to tell the class the details of the event, the main actors, and analyze how this is connected to the topics we have discussed in class. Please use reliable sources such as:

- PBS
- NPR
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post
- The BBC (Has great coverage on Latin America and the Caribbean)
- The Guardian
- <http://www.americasquarterly.org/>
- <https://nacla.org>
- The Miami Herald
- Foreign Affairs
- You can also consult newspapers in Spanish, Portuguese or French
- (This list is not extensive and there are other acceptable sources that are not included, you are welcome to use other sources, as long as they are reliable and provide facts)

You can also listen to podcasts specializing in Latin American politics or current events. Some recommendations include:

- The Washington Office in Latin America:
<https://www.wola.org/format/podcast/>
- Americas Society / Council of the Americas
<https://www.as-coa.org/content-type/podcasts>
- El Hilo [en Español] <https://elhilo.audio/episodios/>

Reading discussion, small group activities, and pop quizzes: 15 points

As an advanced, 300 level class, you are expected to actively participate in class, asking questions that demonstrate that you have read, and be prepared for occasional pop quizzes about the readings or to talk about the country you are analyzing. You can also obtain participation points from your contribution to small group discussions during class and attending office hours.

There are no make-up assignment options for group work or reading discussions.

Reading exams: 45 points

There will be three in-class, closed-book reading exams. These exams will be based on a small set of class readings (i.e. they are non-cumulative) and will test your knowledge of the readings. Each exam will be 15 points. The dates for each exam are:

First exam: Sept. 29

Second Exam: Oct. 20

Third exam: Dec. 6

We will have a review session prior to each exam. Make sure you are prepared and bring questions to this session.

Grading scale

≥ 93 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-

≤ 60 E

Class calendar (Subject to change)

Thursday 24-Aug Course Introduction –

Read the syllabus and take syllabus exam – **NO CLASS**

Tuesday 29-Aug Class introduction & Introduction to Latin America

- Hoffman, Kelly; Centeno, Miguel Angel. 2003. “The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America”. *Annual Review of Sociology*. 29 (1):363-390

Thursday, 31-Aug.

- Fukuyama, Francis. 2008. “Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy: The Latin American Experience.” *Journal of Democracy* 19 (4): 69–79. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jod.0.0035>.

Tuesday 5-Sep Authoritarian regimes

- Kinzer, Stephen. 2006. “Get rid of this stinker”. In *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*.
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Thursday 7-Sep

- Bouvard, Marguerite. *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*. Ch 1. The Dirty War.

Recommended:

- <https://open.spotify.com/episode/2B5geUHVNYyshxpUnEpGpW?si=yNDRoXTQXyaofn6w2810Q>
- [En Español] <https://radioambulante.org/audio/helicoptero-silencio-balazo-huida>
- [English transcript] <https://radioambulante.org/en/translation/the-helicopter-the-silence-the-gunshot-the-escape-translation>

Tuesday 12-Sep Neoliberalism & "the lost decade"

- Weyland, Kurt. 2004. “Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record” *Latin American Politics & Society* - Volume 46, Number 1, Spring 2004, pp. 135- 157.
- [En Español] Recommended <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5q40c3i27jcmZKKpTu4A6O?si=5M8IEVMPTUyDiWHd5-khvg>

- <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5htUdfiTWP7fHM6ILT2q0e?si=4CX3Bj9USzil-BGCl4RRIw>

Thursday 14-Sep Democracy & democratization

- Linz & Stepan. Problems of democratic transition and consolidation. Ch. 12. Argentina.
- Waylen, Georgina. 1993. "Women's Movements and Democratisation in Latin America". *Third World Quarterly*. 14 (3):573-587

Recommended:

The movie "No" about Chile's Democratic transition. Available from the library

<https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/no>

Tuesday 19-Sep Presidentialism in Latin America

Jones, Mark P. 2012. "Presidentialism and Legislatures." In *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203860267.ch2>.

Thursday 21-Sep

Exam review

Tuesday 26-Sep

First exam

Thursday 28-Sep

Seawright, Jason, and Harry E. Vanden. 2020. "Party-System Change in Latin America." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, edited by Gary Prevost. Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1679>.

Tuesday 3-Oct Judicial Institutions and the Rule of law

Brinks, Daniel. 2013. "A tale of two cities: the judiciary and the rule of law in Latin America". In *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Politics*

Thursday 5-Oct

Hilbink, Lisa, Valentina Salas, Janice K. Gallagher, and Juliana Restrepo Sanín. "Why People Turn to Institutions They Detest: Institutional Mistrust and Justice System Engagement in Uneven Democratic States." *Comparative Political Studies* 55, no. 1 (2022): 3-31.

Tuesday 10-Oct The Left Turn - why turning left?

Mainwaring, Scott. "The Crisis of Representation in the Andes." *Journal of Democracy* 17, no. 3 (2006): 13-27. doi:10.1353/jod.2006.0048.

Thursday 12-Oct

Levitski and Roberts. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Introduction

Tuesday 17-Oct Inclusive democracies?

Kapiszewski, D., Levitsky, S., & Yashar, D. (2021). Inequality, Democracy, and the Inclusionary Turn in Latin America. In D. Kapiszewski, S. Levitsky, & D. Yashar (Eds.), *The Inclusionary Turn in Latin American Democracies* (pp. 1-56). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108895835.002

Thursday 19-Oct

- Hooker, Julie. 2005. "Indigenous inclusion/Black exclusion: race, ethnicity and multicultural citizenship in Latin America"
- Townsend-Bell, Erica. 2021. "'We Entered as Blacks and We Left as Afro-Descendants': Tracing the Path to Affirmative Action in Uruguay." *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, February, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17442222.2021.1877872>.

Tuesday 24-Oct Inclusive democracies? Gender, sexuality & Politics

- Friedman, Elisabeth Jay, ed. *Seeking Rights from the Left: Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Pink Tide*. Duke University Press, 2018. Introduction

Thursday 26-Oct

- Tabbush, Constanza, María Constanza Díaz, Catalina Trebisacce, and Victoria Keller. "LGBT Rights Yes, Abortion No: Explaining Uneven Trajectories in Argentina under Kirchnerism (2003-15)." *Seeking Rights from the Left: Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Pink Tide* (2019): 82-114.
- Wilkinson, Annie. "Ecuador's citizen revolution 2007-17: A lost decade for women's rights and gender equality." *Seeking Rights from the Left: Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Pink Tide*. Durham, NC (2019): 269-304.

Recommended:

Rough Translation: (English) Brazil in Black and White
<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/542840797>

Update: <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/542840797>

OR

https://podcast.app/genias-in-music-petrona-martinez-e317744639/?utm_source=ios&utm_medium=share

Tuesday 31-Oct Populism

Guest Speaker

Thursday 3-Nov

Exam review session

Tuesday 7-Nov

Second exam

Thursday 9-Nov The effects of the Left Turn

Abbot, J. and Levitsky, S. "The Left Turn and Citizenship. How Much Has Changed?" in: *Legacies of the Left Turn in Latin America: The Promise of Inclusive Citizenship*, edited by Manuel Balán, and Françoise Montambeault, University of Notre Dame Press, 2020.

Tuesday 14-Nov The right strikes back?

Wendy Hunter and Timothy Power. 2019. "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash." *Journal of Democracy* 30(1): 68-82

Thursday 16-Nov Contemporary discontent and social mobilization

Possibly online

Rodríguez, Juan Pablo. 2021. "The Politics of Neoliberalism in Latin America: Dynamics of Resilience and Contestation." *Sociology Compass* 15 (3): e12854.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12854>.

Tuesday 21-Nov

Possibly online

Listen to these three podcasts in order:

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/understanding-colombias-latest-wave-of-social-protest/>

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/podcast-colombia-july-2021/>

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/what-happens-with-the-petro-government-could-become-a-model-for-engaging-with-the-region/>

Thursday 24-Nov

NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

Tuesday 28-Nov

Possibly online

Borzutzky, Silvia, and Sarah Perry. "It is not about the 30 pesos, it is about the 30 years": Chile's Elitist Democracy, Social Movements, and the October 18 Protests." *The Latin Americanist* 65, no. 2 (2021): 207-232.

Thursday 30-Nov

Exam review

Tuesday 6-Dec

Final exam

Class evaluation

Course policies

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that violate this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Online Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students [here](#).

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must

be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Attendance

For successfully passing this course, your participation and engagement are expected. Students must be prepared to discuss the readings and other materials listed for that day. However, if you are sick or have been in contact with someone who is sick please stay home and take care of yourself. Please let your professor know if you are not attending class because of illness. Generally, missing one or two classes during the semester will not affect your performance. However, you should not expect to be allowed to make up for any missing work unless you have an excused absence. If you miss class, you are encouraged to ask your classmates for their notes or come to office hours to talk about the class you missed. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found [here](#)

Communications

Please let me know of any issues you have with the class or that can be affecting your academic performance. If you have questions, you are encouraged to schedule office hours (Wednesday 1-3 or by appointment). Please use Canvas for all communications with me and your teaching assistant. Please allow 24 hours for us to respond and until Monday if you contact us over the weekend.

Technology

For succeeding in this class, you need to have access to Canvas. Please consult these guides if you are unsure about how to use this application:

For Canvas: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>

Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led

discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Other Recommendations

Masks. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences emphasizes that, in light of CDC recommendations, face coverings, though not required, are expected in all UF facilities, including your classrooms. Regardless of vaccination status, mask usage is a responsible and vital way of preventing transmission of COVID-19. Faculty may also ask for mask usage in their offices during one-on-one meetings (with a provision for remote office hour meetings as an alternative).

Vaccination. If you have not been vaccinated, please consider starting the process immediately. If you are currently at home, you can obtain a first dose where you are and receive a second dose here in Gainesville. If you are already in Gainesville, you can schedule a vaccination appointment at ONE.UF. Please keep in mind that being vaccinated for COVID-19 is the best way to protect yourself and others from the potentially life-threatening effects of the virus. Your action in this regard may help ensure the health and safety of yourself, your fellow CLAS students, and the faculty and staff with whom you interact.