

**University of Florida**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**CPO 3303 - Introduction to Latin American Politics**  
**LAS 3930 - Special Topics in Latin American Studies**  
**Fall 2022**

Professor: Juliana Restrepo Sanín, Ph.D.

Class Meeting Times: Tuesday 8:30 to 10:25 (periods 2 & 3); Thursday 9:35 to 10:25 (period 3)

Room: [Mathery Hall 0016](#)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:30-2:00; Grinter Hall 331, 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
Group country profile and presentations	30	Part 1: Sept. 22 Part 2: Nov. 8 Part 3: Nov. 29
Discussion leader	20	Each student chooses
Current events	10	Any class, four times during the semester
Reading discussion, small group activities, and pop quizzes	10	
Exams (3 total)	30 total (10 each)	First exam: Sept. 29 Second Exam: Oct. 20 Third exam: Dec. 6
Total	100	

### *Group country profile and presentations: 30 points*

You will be working in groups of 3 students to build a country profile. These 1 to 2-page assignments will be related to the topics discussed in class. To ensure that all members of the groups are equally involved in the research and writing of the country profile, one will be randomly selected to present a short summary of the findings the day the profile is due and up to a week after. All members of the group must be prepared to present and the grade of all the members of the group will be impacted by the presentation. It is thus everyone's responsibility to ensure that all the team members actively participate in the research and writing of the country profile and are prepared to present. If you are having difficulties with a member of the group please let me know in advance. The country profile should be submitted through Canvas.

Part 1: Democratization. Due Sep 2, 2022

Part 2: Inclusion & Democracy (women, ethnoracial minorities, other issues). Due

Nov 8, 2022

Part 3: Contemporary challenges to democracy or democratization. Due Nov 29, 2022

### *Discussion leader:*

On the first day of class, all students should choose 2 classes in which they will serve as co-discussant. To prepare you must read the assignments and prepare three questions or comments about the reading (“I liked it/ didn’t like it” and similar comments do not count). You do not need to memorize every single topic discussed by the author(s). Rather, you must be able to convey what the author’s main argument is, what question(s) they sought to answer in the article or chapter, what are the main concepts or ideas developed by the author. You can also bring questions you have about the article. It is always OK (and in fact it is encouraged!) to disagree with authors and you are welcome to challenge the authors’ arguments as long as you present evidence to support your claims (“my dad told me” is not evidence). You should submit the questions to Canvas *before* the class begins. Failing to bring the questions, or being absent when you are discussant will result in a 0. Students will not be able to make up for this assignment.

### *Current events: 10 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 four times** during the semester. You should be prepared to discuss the news report you bring. 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: 10 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.

## Class calendar (Subject to change)

Thursday 25-Aug Course Introduction –

Read the syllabus

Tuesday 30-Aug 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
- 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>.

Thursday, 1-Sep

Lecture

Tuesday 6-Sep Authoritarian regimes

- Kinzer, Stephen. 2006. “Get rid of this stinker”. In *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*.
- Bouvard, Marguerite. *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*. Ch 1. The Dirty War.

Thursday 8-Sep

- [En Español] <https://radioambulante.org/audio/helicoptero-silencio-balazo-huida>
- [English] <https://radioambulante.org/en/translation/the-helicopter-the-silence-the-gunshot-the-escape-translation>

Recommended:

[en Español]:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2B5geUHVNYyshxpUnEpGpW?si=yNDrEoXTQXyaofn6w281oQ>

Tuesday 13-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/5q40c3i27icmZKKpTu4A6O?si=5M8IEVMPTUyDiWHd5-khvg>

- <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5htUdfiTWP7fHM6lLT2q0e?si=4CX3Bj9USzil-BGCl4RRIw>

### Thursday 15-Sep - NO CLASS

### Tuesday 20-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>

### Thursday 22-Sep

*First country profile due*

### Tuesday 27-Sep Political Institutions the Presidency, Legislatures, and Political Parties

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

### Thursday 29-Sep

**First exam**

### Tuesday 4-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*
- 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.

### Thursday 6-Oct

[https://open.spotify.com/episode/6789zdohVqG6rDemQKyPQf?si=glbVP6vNQly6KCHmEX\\_Xnw](https://open.spotify.com/episode/6789zdohVqG6rDemQKyPQf?si=glbVP6vNQly6KCHmEX_Xnw)

<https://radioambulante.org/en/audio-en/the-truce>

[en Español]

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/32W3pS4FpedEAKIYHy90Jm?si=tS8ZC958R6Gx6B1UliCGP>

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### Tuesday 11-Oct The Left Turn - why turning left?

- Levitski and Roberts. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Introduction
- Weyland, K; Madrid, R.; and Hunter, W. 2010. *Leftist Governments in Latin America Successes and Shortcomings*. Introduction.

### Thursday 13-Oct

[En español] <https://radioambulante.org/audio/boom-colapso>

[English transcription] <https://radioambulante.org/en/translation/translation-boom-bust>

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

Recommended:

[En Español]:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/2s6b2H4vSadCzDs5b3Op5q?si=jamrKYrWTbGu74CG7XeaAg>

### Tuesday 18-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 20-Oct

#### Second exam

### Tuesday 25-Oct Inclusive democracies? Race & Ethnicity

- 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>.

### Thursday 27-Oct

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

### Tuesday 1-Nov Inclusive democracies? Gender, sexuality & Politics

- Piscopo, Jennifer M. 2015. "States as Gender Equality Activists: The Evolution of Quota Laws in Latin America." *Latin American Politics and Society* 57 (3): 27–49. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1548-2456.2015.00278.x>.
- Corrales, Javier. 2015. "LGBT Rights and Representation in Latin America and the Caribbean." Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. [https://globalstudies.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/224/2015/04/LGBT\\_Report\\_LatAm\\_v8-copy.pdf](https://globalstudies.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/224/2015/04/LGBT_Report_LatAm_v8-copy.pdf).

### Thursday 3-Nov

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/audio/breaking-barriers-women-americas>

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/if-they-can-kill-bera-caceres-they-can-kill-anybody-nina-lakhani-on-the-danger-to-social-leaders/>

### Tuesday 8-Nov The effects of the Left Turn

#### *Second country profile due*

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.

### Thursday 10-Nov

Wilkinson, Annie. "Ecuador's Citizen Revolution (2007-17): A Lost Decade for Women's Rights and Gender Equality: in: Friedman, Elisabeth Jay. 2019. *Seeking Rights from the Left; Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Pink Tide*. Durham: Duke University Press.

### Tuesday 15-Nov The right strikes back?

- Wendy Hunter and Timothy Power. 2019. "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash." *Journal of Democracy* 30(1): 68-82
- Corredor, Elizabeth. 2021. "On the strategic uses of women's rights". *Latin American Politics & Society*. Online first.



**Thursday 17-Nov**

<https://www.wola.org/analysis/a-snapshot-of-human-rights-and-democracy-in-brazil/>

**Tuesday 22-Nov Contemporary discontent and social mobilization**

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 29-Nov**

*Third country profile due*

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.

<https://democracynerd.us/episode/episode-53-democracy-in-real-time-an-update-on-chiles-new-constitution-w-jennifer-piscopo-peter-siavelis>

[En Español]:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6UbpySrPpQxVpwyZLSRKxj?si=hjqGH4WMRAOblooNmKfS9g>

*Recommended*

Listen to Wilson Center webcast on [2019 protests](#)

**Thursday 1-Dec**

Latin America's Shifting Politics: Democratic Survival and Weakness. By Steven Levitsky 2018.

Wilson Center Podcast on Democracy in the Americas

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/audio/democracy-americas>

**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/](http://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.