

CPO 6307/LAS 6938
Latin American Politics
Professor Leslie Anderson
Fall, 2023

Meeting time: Tuesday, 8:30-11:30 (Periods 2-4)

Matherly 0014

This course is an introductory graduate seminar on Latin American politics. In Political Science it fulfills the requirement of an area studies or regional seminar. In Latin American Studies it fulfills other requirements. My aim here is to introduce you to some of the newest scholarly studies and some of the most contemporary concerns in the study of this important region.

In the past thirty years, the study of Latin America has moved from being exotic to becoming mainstream. This change has brought positive and negative ramifications. On the one hand, some of the newest literature resembles other, older fields of study like American politics. On the other hand, the field is somewhat more in dialogue with major questions of political science more generally. Along the way, scholarship on Latin America has moved from being the study of dictatorship, repression, popular protest and revolution to asking many of the questions currently of interest in Western Europe and the United States: questions about democracy, democratic survivability, democratization and democratic decline, elections and electoral rules, and institutions.

In this course, you are required to come to class, do the readings in preparation for class, and participate in class discussions. Additionally, I ask you to teach the materials for one week. We will divide the weeks up in the first two class sessions. Teaching your assigned materials is part of your participation in this class. You will receive a participation grade.

Finally, I would like you to write a research paper of about 25-30 pages on any topic from this course that also fits with your research interests. Your term paper will be a central part of the work that you do for this course. Choose a topic on the syllabus where you would like to write your paper. Then here is your assignment: Early in the semester, I will assign you a partner or you can pick your own partner. That person will be responsible for reviewing your work and giving you feedback. That feedback will be done in class after you do your initial presentation. We will start with a brief presentation by each student on their paper topic. This should be no more than a 10 minute presentation. Your partner will then comment on the potential of your project and on any problems they see with the intended project. Later in the semester you will present your paper more fully to the class followed by a critique from your partner in the same class session. At the end of the semester you will turn in the paper as your final requirement for the course. Each partner is responsible for reading the work of the other partner and for offering constructive criticism. Take a look at the conversations we cover and decide where you want to put your paper.

Readings: Required Books

1. McClintock, Cynthia, *Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018.
2. Anderson, Leslie, *Democratization by Institutions*, Michigan, 2016¹

¹ This book is available in Spanish at <https://www.prometeoeditorial.net/productos/democratizacion-a-traves-de-las-instituciones-la/>

3. Ziblatt, Daniel *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*, Cambridge, 2017
4. Loxton, James, *Conservative Party-Building in Latin America: Authoritarian Inheritance and Counterrevolutionary Struggle*, Oxford, 2021
5. Weyland, Kurt, *Revolution and Reaction: Authoritarian Diffusion in Latin America*, Cambridge, 2019.²
6. Kapiszewski, Diana, Steven Levitsky and Deborah Yashar, eds, *The Inclusionary Turn in Latin American Democracies*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2021³
7. Elfenbein, Rachel, *Engendering Revolution: Women, Unpaid Labor, and Maternalism in Bolivarian Venezuela*, University of Texas Press, 2019
8. Anderson, Dodd, Park, *Democratic Backsliding in Nicaragua* unpublished book manuscript, 2023. I will upload chapters to Canvas
8. Gibson, Edward, *Boundary Control*, Cambridge, 2012
9. Yashar, Deborah, *Homicidal Ecologies*, Cambridge, 2018
10. Schatz, Edward ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*, Chicago, 2009. I will ask you to read 3 chapters from this volume. You decide whether you want to buy it or not. see below

Readings: Required Articles, Book Chapters, and Papers

1. Anderson and McClintock, Critical Dialogue: *Perspectives on Politics*, December 2018
2. Renno, Lucio, "The Bolsonaro Voter," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol 62, # 4, November, 2020
3. Hunter, Wendy and Tim Powers, "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 30, # 1, January, 2019, pp 68-82
4. Weyland, Kurt, "Latin America's Authoritarian Drift: The Threat from the Populist Left," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 24, # 3, July, 2013, pp 18-32
5. Hunter, Wendy and Tim Powers, "Lula's Second Act," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 34, # 1, January, 2019, pp 126-140
6. Anderson, Leslie "Many Small Venezuelas: Subnational Authoritarianism in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina," ms in progress, 2023, I will upload this paper to Canvas
7. Arias, Enrique Desmond, "Ethnography and the Study of Latin American Politics: An Agenda for Research" in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power* see above
8. Bayard de Volo, Lorraine, "Participant Observation, Politics, and Power Relations: Nicaraguan Mothers and U.S. Casino Workers," in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power* see above
9. Schatz, Edward, "Conclusion," in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power* see above
10. Fox, Jonathan, "Rural Democratization and Decentralization at the State/Society Interface: What Counts as Local Government in the Mexican Countryside?" *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol 34, # 3-4, pp. 527-559

² this book is available as an ebook from the UF library. If working off campus you need the Cisco Anyconnect VPN and with it you can download and read a PDF copy

³ This book is available as an ebook from the UF library. You can download the chapters separately and read them as PDF copies.

11. Rivero, Mauricio, "Drugs, Crime and Non-State Actors in Latin America," *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol 62, # 4, November 2020, pp 153-162.

Note: the following are not scholarly articles:

12. Ellis, Evan "Russia in the Western Hemisphere: Assessing Putin's Malign Influence in Latin America and the Caribbean, Congressional Testimony"

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/russia-western-hemisphere-assessing-putins-malign-influence-latin-america-and-caribbean>

13. Oppenheimer, Andres, "A Year After Putin Invaded Ukraine, Much of Latin America is Shamefully Soft on Putin," Opinion piece, Miami Herald, March 2023,

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andres-oppenheimer/article272575317.html>

14. Gurganus, Julia, "Russia Playing a Geopolitical Game in Latin America," essay published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace," May 2018

15. Weiss, Sandra, "Putin's Latin America Connection," *International Politics and Society*, online journal, March 2022, <https://www.ips-journal.eu/topics/democracy-and-society/putins-latin-american-connection-5761/>

Schedule of Classwork and Readings

August 24: 1st class, go over syllabus, available on canvas, answer questions pertinent to whether you want to take the class

Section I: Democratic Institutions and Electoral Processes: The Concerns of Democracy in Latin America

August 31 no class APSA

September 7 Anderson, *Democratization by Institutions*

September 14 McClintock, *Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America*
Critical Dialogue between both authors, *Perspectives on Politics*,

Section II: The Right

September 21 Ziblatt, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*

September 28 Weyland, *Revolution and Reaction*, Read the Introduction and all of Part III

October 5 Loxton, *Conservative Party Building*, Read Chapters 1 and 2 and then only the Conclusion to each chapter.

Renno, "The Bolsonaro Voter,"

Hunter and Powers, "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash"

Section III: The Left

- October 12 Weyland, "Latin America's Authoritarian Drift:"
Elfenbein, *Engendering Revolution*
- October 19 Kapiszewski, Diana, Steven Levitsky and Deborah Yashar, eds, *The Inclusionary Turn*
Anderson, Dodd, Park, *Democratic Backsliding in Nicaragua*
unpublished book manuscript, I will upload chapters to Canvas
Hunter and Powers, "Lula's Second Act,"

Section IV Subnational Politics

- October 26 Edward Gibson, *Boundary Control*, Cambridge, 2012
Anderson, Leslie "Many Small Venezuelas: Subnational Authoritarianism in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina," ms in progress, I will upload this to Canvas
- November 2 Anderson, Dodd, Park, Part II

Section V Crime, Drugs, Gangs

- November 9 Yashar, *Homicidal Ecologies*
Rivero, "Drugs, Crime and Non-State Actors"

Section VI A Moment on Methods

- November 16 Enrique Desmond Arias, "Ethnography and the study of Latin American Politics: An Agenda for Research" in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*
Bayard de Volo, "Participant Observation, Politics, and Power Relations: Nicaraguan Mothers and U.S. Casino Workers," in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*
Schatz, Conclusion, in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*
Jonathan Fox, "Rural Democratization and Decentralization at the State/Society Interface..."

Section VII Putin in Latin America

- November 30 Ellis, "Russia in the Western Hemisphere"
Oppenheimer, "A Year After Putin Invaded"
Gurganus, "Russia Playing a Geopolitical Game in Latin America,"
Weiss, "Putin's Latin America Connection,"
present one paper here
- December 5 present final papers Final paper due: last week of classes or the next week.