

Gainesville
University of Florida
Fall 2020
Department of Political Science
CPO 3303 - Introduction to Latin American Politics

Professor: Juliana Restrepo Sanín, Ph.D.

Class Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:45 am – 12:35 pm

Zoom meeting information available in Canvas

Password: LATAM

Virtual office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00 and by appointment (see link below)

Contact: via Canvas

Credits: 3

Teaching Assistant: Mrs. Jeeye Song

Contact: Via Canvas

Course Description and 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.

This course will take place online synchronously.

Because of the limitations and challenges of online teaching, the class will be roughly organized around lectures on Mondays; and Wednesdays and Fridays will be focused on discussions and synchronous group work. You are expected to attend lectures and discussions.

Netiquette and other expectations

We will use Zoom for our synchronous class meetings. Keep in mind that you will need to access Zoom via Canvas or using your ulf.edu email address. You will not be allowed to access the class meeting using another email address.

You are strongly encouraged to turn your camera on during lectures and discussions, as this will help me and your classmates to get to know you better. However, I understand that this might be difficult or uncomfortable so turning on your camera during lectures and big group discussions is not required. However, there are some times that you will be required to have your camera and microphone on for small-group discussions. These groups will be the same during the semester and seeing each other will help you work better with each other.

Unless otherwise stated, class sessions will NOT be recorded. Students who miss class will not have access to a recording and will have to talk to classmates to share their notes or attend office hours. As in all courses, unauthorized recording (including using a phone or other device to record or screen-capturing) and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited (and illegal). Students will be muted during lectures to avoid distractions but can ask questions using the chat option or using the Zoom “raise hand” option. We will have time during lectures to discuss questions. During discussion sessions students will not be muted, but please do so if you do not want to participate or if there is too much noise that may be distracting to other students.

I understand that these are not ideal circumstances for taking a class – many of you are probably at home, with siblings, pets, or other family members that may interrupt. Others may be working or caring for others, or maybe in another time zone. Please let me know if you have a specific situation that may affect your engagement and participation in class so we can discuss options. As a Carnegie I, research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.

As with a face to face class, please be respectful of your classmates, your TA, and your professor. We may disagree with a lot of things but we can have respectful discussions. Racism, misogyny, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated.

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.

Attendance and Participation:

Even though the class will take place online, attendance is **expected**. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and other materials and engage in class discussions.

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](#)

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.

Course policies

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.

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 Zoom and Canvas. Please consult these guides if you are unsure about how to use these applications:

For Zoom: https://elearning.ufl.edu/zoom/#zoom_in_canvas

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

Keep in mind that you will need to access Zoom via Canvas or using your ulf.edu email address. You will not be allowed to access the class meeting using another email address.

We will also use the Canvas application Perusall for doing readings and commenting. This work will be graded. We will review all these applications during the first week of class but you must familiarize yourself with this tool on your own.

Here is a quick guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODE6v4YOo0E>

Grading & Assessment:

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

Introduce yourself assignment: 5 points

Upload 1-page introduction of yourself. You are strongly encouraged to include a picture. Please answer the following questions: What is your major? Minor? What year are you in? what are you interested in taking this class? What are your expectations and goals? (or what do you want to learn), what relevant experience do you have (relevant experiences may include previous classes in politics, gender or women's studies, area studies, some anthropology or sociology classes; it may also include having lived or traveled outside of the United States; speaking languages other than English; having worked, interned or volunteered in organizations that promote human rights or development.

This introduction will help me to get to know you better.

Group country profile: 40 points

You will be working in groups of 4 students to build a country profile. These 1 to 2-page assignments will be related to the topics discussed in class.

Part 1: Democratization. Due October 5

Part 2: Political institutions and parties. Due October 26

Part 3: Inclusion & Democracy (women, ethnoracial minorities, other issues). Due November 9

Part 4: Contemporary challenges. Due November 30

Reading discussion: 30 points

We will use Perusall to collectively read some of the assigned readings. Students are required to participate in the collective reading. This means posting comments, questions, highlighting important things, respectfully critiquing the authors, etc. You can also respond to your classmates' comments (but 'I agree with you' does not count!).

Engagement & participation: 10 points

Because this is an online class, engagement in discussion is fundamental. Most of the discussions will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays. You are, of course, encouraged to ask questions during lectures (usually on Mondays)

• **Other ways to earn participation points:**

- **What's happening in Latin America?** We will begin each class with a discussion of current events in Latin America. You can participate during Zoom meetings or in a forum on Canvas. Be prepared to discuss a particular event from the news and explain how it relates to the topics discussed in class. Please use reliable news sources.
- **Attend office hours.** Office hours will be held virtually every Wednesday from 1 to 3. The Zoom meeting for office hours is <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92967490166> Keep in mind that there will be a waiting room and there may be a queue. For discussing issues or questions that will take more than 10 minutes, please contact your professor or TA via canvas to schedule an appointment.
 - **What are office hours for?** Office hours are a space for students. You may come to discuss issues you are having with the class, questions you have, you may come to talk about your grades, the readings, the news. If you are having personal issues that may be affecting your performance in class, you should come and discuss them with me so we can figure out a plan for you to succeed in this class. You do not need to tell me private or intimate things.

Take-home Final: 15 points

The final is an individual reflection based on the group work and the class discussions. It is due the last day of class. This will include an assessment of the group and your participation. The questions will be distributed in advance.

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

All assignments must be submitted using Canvas. Email copies will not be accepted.

Policy on Late and Make-up Work:

Barring exceptional circumstances, due dates are final. Assignments will be marked down 1 point for each day late, starting at 11:59 pm on the due date. If you turn an assignment in at 12:05 am, that counts as a full day late. This applies for group work as well. Discuss things with your professor you have any difficulties turning in assignments on time.

Grade Return Timing:

Please allow two weeks after you turn in an assignment to receive grades and feedback.

Extra-credit:

There may be opportunities for extra-credit. They will be presented during Zoom meetings.

Class schedule – subject to change

Date	Activity	Topic	Readings	Other Materials	Assignments
Monday, August 31, 2020	Lecture	Course introduction	No readings		
Wednesday, September 2, 2020	Lecture			Read the syllabus and become familiar with Perusall (Canvas tool), Canvas, Zoom	
Friday, September 4, 2020	Lecture				Assignment 1 Due - introduce yourself
Monday, September 7, 2020	No class - Labor day	What is Latin America			
Wednesday, September 9, 2020	Readings & Discussion		Hoffman, Kelly; Centeno, Miguel Angel. 2003. "The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America". <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> . 29 (1):363-390		Collective reading Using Perusall
Friday, September 11, 2020	Independent work				

Monday, September 14, 2020	Lecture				
Wednesday, September 16, 2020	Readings & Discussion	Authoritarian regimes	Bouvard, Marguerite. <i>Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.</i> Ch 1. The Dirty War.		Collective reading using Perusall
Friday, September 18, 2020	Readings & Discussion				
Monday, September 21, 2020	Lecture				
Wednesday, September 23, 2020	Readings & Discussion	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.		Collective reading using Perusall
Friday, September 25, 2020	Readings & Discussion			Highly recommended: Netflix Rotten Season 2, Episode 1 "The Avocado War"	

Monday, September 28, 2020	Lecture	Democracy & democratization			
Wednesday, September 30, 2020	Readings & Discussion				
Friday, October 2, 2020	Readings & Discussion			Recommended: the movie "No" about Chile's Democratic transition. Available from the library https://video.alexanderstreet.com/watch/no	
Monday, October 5, 2020	Lecture	Political Institutions - The Presidency			Country profile part 1 due
Wednesday, October 7, 2020	Readings & Discussion		Anderson, Leslie. 2016 "The Presidential System in a New Democracy" in: <i>Democratizing by Institutions: Argentina's Transition Years in Comparative Perspective.</i> University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor		Collective reading using Perusall
Friday, October 9, 2020	Readings & Discussion			Understanding Latin American Politics podcast: Presidentialism	

Monday, October 12, 2020	Lecture				
Wednesday, October 14, 2020	Readings & Discussion	Legislative & Judicial institutions	Simison, Emilia. 2019. “Legislatures and Representation in Latin American Politics”. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.		
Friday, October 16, 2020	Readings & Discussion			Open Global Rights Blogpost ; Check World Justice Project	
Monday, October 19, 2020	Lecture				
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	Readings & Discussion	Party systems & Elections	Wills Otero, Laura. 2020. “Party Systems in Latin America”. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.		
Friday, October 23, 2020	Readings & Discussion				
Monday, October 26, 2020	Lecture	Inclusive democracies- citizenship			Country profile part 2 due

Wednesday, October 28, 2020	Readings & Discussion		Yashar, Deborah. 2005. <i>Contesting Citizenship in Latin America the Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge</i> . Cambridge University Press. Ch. 2		Collective reading using Perusall
Friday, October 30, 2020	Readings & Discussion			Watch video about indigenous peoples in Colombia	
Monday, November 2, 2020	Lecture	Gender & Politics			
Wednesday, November 4, 2020	Readings & Discussion		Piscopo, Jennifer; Wylie, Kristin. 2020. "Gender, Race, and Political Representation in Latin America". Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.		

Friday, November 6, 2020	Readings & Discussion			MonkeyCage blogpost Jana Morgan, "Political exclusion lingers for women in Latin America," May 15, 2014.	
Monday, November 9, 2020	Lecture	The Left Turn - why turning left?			Country profile 3 due
Wednesday, November 11, 2020	No Class - Veteran's day			Watch The Hugo Chavez Show (use your UFID)	
Friday, November 13, 2020	Readings & Discussion		Levitski and Roberts. <i>The Resurgence of the Latin American Left</i> . Johns Hopkins University press. Introduction		Collective reading using Perusall
Monday, November 16, 2020	Lecture	Populism			

Wednesday, November 18, 2020	Readings & Discussion		“In the Name of the People: Democratization, Popular Organizations, and Populism in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador” European Review of Latin America and Caribbean Studies/Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericano s y del Caribe N 95, October 2013, 27-48		Collective reading using Perusall
Friday, November 20, 2020	Readings & Discussion				Final assignment question distributed
Monday, November 23, 2020	Lecture	The Effects of the Left Turn		Evans, Alice “How Latin America bucked the trend of rising inequality”. <i>The Conversation</i> . Podcast about Venezuela	
Wednesday, November 25, 2020	No class				

Friday, November 27, 2020	THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS				
Monday, November 30, 2020	Lecture				Country profile 4 due
Wednesday, December 2, 2020	Readings & Discussion	The end of the left turn?	Wendy Hunter and Timothy Power. 2019. "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash." Journal of Democracy 30(1): 68-82	listen to podcast on Latin American democracies	Collective reading Using Perusall
Friday, December 4, 2020	Readings & Discussion			More, Anna. "A Specter of Dictatorship in Brazil". Nacla. November 5, 2018.	
Monday, December 7, 2020	Readings & Discussion	Contemporary Challenges		Listen to Wilson Center webcast on 2019 protests	
Wednesday, December 9, 2020	Class wrap up				Take-Home Final Due.

Other recommended resources (most are in Spanish):

[The helicopter, the silence, the gunshot, the scape](#)

[Hasta encontrarlo](#)

Radio Ambulante –

[Los 43 + 11](#)

[Boom/Bust](#)

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

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

Mexico. State violence and the narco. "It was the state": <https://radioambulante.org/transcripcion/transcripcion-fue-el-estado>

Seven episodes of Latin American History (pick 1):

<https://radioambulante.org/en/extras-en/siete-episodios-historicos>

El Hilo – <https://elhilo.audio/>

[Alvaro Uribe](#)