

Simon Fraser University
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS:
SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS 1
(POL 337)

Fall 2008
BLU 10665
Fri, 10:30-14:20
Office Hrs: Wed, Fri 14:00-16:00
(or drop in anytime M-F 9-4)

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Description and Schedule
Description

Objectives

This course is designed to provide a thematic overview of the major political and economic issues facing Latin American nations, namely democratization and economic development. We begin with a theoretical introduction to Latin American politics to provide a framework for our analysis. We then turn to 3 in depth case studies: Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. The goal is to develop versatile analytical tools that students could then apply to a variety of other countries and situations, and that would be helpful in future studies and in a work environment. The course is accessible to students with a basic background in political science and/or Latin American studies. Some knowledge of economics is also helpful, but we will be spending time in class to explain the basic concepts needed for political economy analysis.

Required Readings

All of the readings are available through library on-line collections and on reserve wherever possible. There is also a custom courseware package.

Recommended: Students without a background in Latin American studies can check out my text book introduction to the region, see the above website. The website also contains both writing and research tips. The Economist Intelligence Unit country reports, the Encyclopedia Britannica and Latin American Database, avail. through library subscriptions, and the free on-line Political Database of the Americas from Georgetown U. will be good sources of information for the papers.

I will actively post materials on my website and use e-mail to answer questions and pass on additional material during the course.

Assignments

Readings are very reasonable in volume, but students are expected to examine, consider, and react to them before the class discussion. Taking notes and preparing questions and discussions before we meet is the best mode of preparation for the course. Bring materials to class as we use them frequently for exercises and group discussions. We will also discuss how our material relates to current events. Active participation is a must.

The assignments are the following:

- 1- Active participation and thorough preparation
- 2- 2 medium (7-10 pp.) length and 1 short essays that give the student the chance to synthesize the material and provide his/her developed point of view about a country/issue. Suggested short essay questions are listed in the syllabus.
- 3- There will be a final exam based upon the reading materials, classroom lectures, and discussions. The exam will consist of one or more essay questions on topics that have been discussed in class.

Grading

The assignments will be graded proportionally as follows:

- participation, including attendance 15%
- 2 short essays of 7-10 pp., 50% (25% each)
- 1 short essay of 5 pp., 10%
- in class final examination, 25%

Office Hours

I generally do not mind students dropping in without an appointment unless the issue requires significant time. To ensure I haven't stepped out, pls. drop me a quick e-mail to set up a time. I encourage students to contact each other and me by e-mail. I will set up a class e-mail list for this purpose.

Weekly Schedule

I. Introduction to Course (Sept. 5)

Intro. of professor, students, key terms, themes, and background

Lectures: 1a Brief Notes on the Study of Comparative Political Economy; 1b Brief Primer On Politics of Southern Cone

II. Introduction to Latin American Politics (Sept. 12)

Readings: -Torcuato S. Di Tella, *Latin American Politics: A Theoretical Approach*, revised ed., Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. JL 966 D513 2001, 3 copies (A), 1-7; 26-53

-Bring book to class, we will read and interpret selected passages

Lecture: 2 Introduction to Latin American Politics

-Discussion of a current affairs story on LA to class, we will see how well we can construct a beginning analytical framework

Recommended: Hira primer, esp. c. 5, on reserve

Class discussion: Chilean politics- example of voting analysis

III. Background to Argentina and Perón (Sept. 19)

Readings: -Walter Little, "Party and State in Peronist Argentina: 1945-1955" *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 53,4 (Nov 1973): 644-62.

-Peter Ranis, "Early Peronism and the Post-Liberal Argentine State," *Journal of InterAmerican Studies and World Affairs*, 21, 3 (Aug, 1979): 313-38.

-Douglas Madsen and Peter G. Snow, "The Residue of Charisma," c.5 134-50 in *The Charismatic Bond: Political Behavior in Time of Crisis*, Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 1991. F 2849 P48 M28 1991 (1)

Lecture 3: Overview of Argentina Through Peronismo

IV. Argentina: Coalitional Analysis of Dynamics from Peronism (Sept. 26)

Readings: Di Tella, 147-end;

Lecture: 3 (continued);

Group Discussion: Legacies of Peronism

Group Exercise: Breaking Down Di Tella's Model

Film: "The Take" dvd HC 175 T25 2004

V. Analysis of Patterns of Argentine Politics (Oct. 3)

Lectures: 5a- Argentina's recent economic crisis; 5b- Argentine cycles theories

Group exercise: Applying Cycles Theories

Readings:

-Davide G. Erro, "The Crisis of Argentine Political Economy and the Breakdown of Corporatism, 1966-1989, c.1 in *Resolving the Argentine Paradox: Politics and Development*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1993, pp.5-38. HC 175 E68 1993 (2)

-Paul H. Lewis, "Argentina: Intransigent's Paradise," pp.95-126 of 610 pp. in Howard J. Wiarda and Harvey F. Kline, eds., *Latin American Politics and Development*, 5th ed. (Boulder: Westview), F1410 L39 2000, ISBN 0-8133-3769-0 (3)

VI. Discussion of Latin American Political Theory and the Contemporary Argentine situation. (Oct. 10)

Assignment due: Medium essay due. Suggested topics:

-1- What are the principal elements of Di Tella's theory and what is your critical evaluation of the theory? How does it compare to Erro's description of Argentine politics and economics? What explains how the dynamic factors of Argentine politics over time? OR

-2- What do the two theories say about Argentina's current crisis and possible future? Give your analysis on the contemporary situation in Argentina.

VII. Uruguayan Politics: The Breakdown of the Switzerland of LA (Oct. 17)

Readings: Francisco Panizza, "Late Institutionalization and Early Modernisation: The Emergence of Uruguay's Liberal Democratic Political Order," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 29,3 (Oct. 1997): 667-91.

-Arturo S. Bronstein, "The evolution of Labour relations in Uruguay: Achievements and Challenges," *International Labour Review*, 128, 2 (1989): 195-212.

-Jeffrey Cason, "Electoral Reform, Institutional Change, and Party Adaptation in Uruguay," *Latin American Politics and Society* 44,3(Autumn 2002): 89-109.

Lecture 7: Overview of Uruguayan Politics

Group Discussion: What created the Uruguayan model state and what explains its breakdown?

Film: "Tupamaros" 3E13 16 mm film

VIII. Discussion of Uruguayan Case (Oct. 24)

Short Essay Assignment Due: Compare the Batlle state with the Argentine state. Why were the historical trajectories of 2 seemingly similar and tied countries so different? Or What you would do to address the current weaknesses of the Uruguayan economy?

IX. Introduction to Brazilian Politics & Economy (Oct. 31)

Readings:

-Thomas Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, "Brazil," c.5 in *Modern Latin America*, NY: Oxford U. Press, 2001. F 1413 S55 2001 (4)

-Riordan Roett, c.1, "Brazil: A Framework for Analysis," pp.1-31 of 234 in *Brazil: Politics in a Patrimonial Society*, 5th ed., (Westport: Praeger, 1999), JL 2431 R63 1999 ISBN 0-275-95899-X (5)

Lecture 8: Overview of Brazilian Economy

X. Developmentalism in Brazil (Nov. 7)

-Peter Evans, pp.14-64 of 361 in *Dependent Development: The Alliance of Multinational, State, and Local Capital in Brazil*, (Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1979), HC 190 C3 E92, no ISBN (6)

-Kathryn Sikkink, "Developmentalism in Brazil," pp.122-70 of 257, in *Ideas and Institutions: Developmentalism in Brazil and Argentina*, (Ithaca: Cornell U. Press, 1991), HC 187 S445 1991 ISBN 0-8014-2488-7 (7)

Lecture 9: Analyzing Brazil's Economy: The Structural Period in Historical Perspective

Discussion: Role of State in Structuralism vs Neoliberalism and role of MNCs

XI. Brazil: Neoliberal Reform (Nov. 14)

-Peter R. Kingstone, c.2, "Breaking with the Past," pp. 27-65 of 258 in *Crafting Coalitions for Reform: Business Preferences, Political Institutions, and Neoliberal Reform in Brazil*, (University Park: The Pennsylvania State U. Press, 1999), JL 2469 P7 K56 1999 ISBN 0-271-01938-7 (8)

-James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer, "Making Brazil Safe for Capital," pp.1-20 of 139 in *Cardoso's Brazil: A Land for Sale*, (Toronto: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), HC 187 P43 2003, ISBN 0-7425-2630-5 (9)

Lecture 10: Neoliberalism in Brazil

Discussion: Understanding Heterodox vs. Orthodox Approaches, weaknesses of financial systems in developing countries

XII. Discussion of Brazil's future. (Nov. 21)

Assignment due: Medium length essay due. Suggested topics:

-1- What are the main strengths and weaknesses of Brazil's neoliberal reform coalition and the opposition to it for the future? What adjustments can be made within a neoliberal framework to address long-term problems?

-2- Take the position of Cardoso and explain why you have made your decisions for the long-term benefit of Brazil. &/or Take the positions of critiquing Cardoso from both the left and the right. Give your own view on what can be done to get Brazil on the right track.

XIII. Review of Course: Comparison of 3 Cases (Nov. 28)

Recommended Reading: Jorge Castaneda, "Realism for Latin America: Finding and Achieving the Possible," *Science & Society*, 69, 2 (Apr. 2005): 138-42.

-Prepare for this class by comparing the political and economic variables and relationships across the 3 cases we have studied.

XIV. Final Exam (M, Dec. 15, 12-15:00, place tba)

Assignment due: The final exam will ask you to compare the three cases we have studied in regard to issues of democratization and economic development. It will be comprehensive, but will give a choice of questions. Try to formulate your own point of view about the major problems we have discussed, and what courses of action might be taken on them. Develop a comparative framework of the three cases.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Plagiarism involves using another author's words without attribution or otherwise presenting another person's work as one's own. It is a fraudulent and serious academic offence that will result in a severe academic penalty. Also, close paraphrasing of another author's work & self-plagiarism, including submitting the same, or substantively the same, work for academic evaluation more than once, are unacceptable practices that will result in a severe academic penalty.

The university policies on academic honesty are available at <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>.

The Department of Political Science's interpretation of this policy can be found at http://www.sfu.ca/politics/undergrad/ug_misc.html, and is available in hard copy format outside our General Office. All students are responsible for familiarising themselves with these policies.

A helpful SFU Library tutorial on plagiarism is at <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/tutorials/interactive/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm>

The DOs and DON'Ts of AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Do not:

- submit an entire paper or part(s) of a paper or papers that has been written or researched by any other person(s);
- submit a paper as an assignment that has been bought from another person or from a 'paper mill' or essay service;
- submit a paper or other written assignment that has been submitted at another time or for a different course by yourself or any other student or former student;
- submit material that has been downloaded from a website, without acknowledging (using appropriate citation style) that you have done so;
- take someone else's idea(s) and represent it/them as your own;
- copy any text verbatim, or with only slight variation from the original text, without using quotation marks and documenting the source with proper citation style;
- do not closely paraphrase another's material; either paraphrase completely in your own words, or cite as a direct quotation using quotation marks (in either case, give full credit and details regarding authorship and location of the original material);

Do:

- learn how to cite material properly (there are many good guides on this, including the departmental one);
- use a recognized citation style (eg. APA, MLA, Chicago), according to instructions given by the course instructor, and be consistent in the use of the style throughout any single piece of written work;
- carefully read and make sure you understand the university's policy on academic honesty;
- ask the instructor of this course or other faculty members if you have any questions about plagiarism.