

Pols 311: Politics of Latin America

Summer 2010

Onur Bakmer

Description:

The main objective of this course is to present an introduction to the historical developments and fundamental political issues in Latin America. The course will combine a historical overview of socioeconomic and political development since the discovery of the Americas with a focus on key contemporary debates. The rise and fall of European colonialism; the challenges of independent nation-building; nationalist, populist and socialist attempts to overcome a social order marked by socioeconomic inequality and cultural exclusion; military dictatorships and human rights violations in the context of the Cold War; democratization and coming to terms with the past throughout the 1990s; and the political struggles around the recent wave of neoliberal economic structuring, will be the focus of this course. The course emphasizes the unique and innovative ways in which Latin American societies face and try to resolve socioeconomic, political and cultural conflicts (such as socioeconomic inequality, military-civilian relationships, internal armed conflict, and respect for human rights); however, it also keeps in mind the comparative nature of many of these conflicts.

Requirements:

The grading will consist of a midterm (35% of total grade), a final exam (45%), film reviews (5%) and quizzes (15%). The midterm will take place in mid-July; while the final date will be announced. The exam format will be decided in class.

Films:

There will be a Latin American movie screening at Mithat Alam Center (time TBA) every week. As the film reviews constitute 5% of the final grade, please make sure to attend the movies regularly.

Academic Integrity:

Please avoid cheating and plagiarism no matter what! There are clear rules and regulations of the University to punish offenders of academic honesty. It is possible that you may not know the appropriate rules of citation and quotation; please do not hesitate to ask me.

Office Hours: TBA

Week 1: Introduction and the Historical Context

June 29: Introduction

Gabriel García Márquez, “The Solitude of Latin America” (Nobel Prize Lecture).

Marie Price, “Latin America: A geographic Preface” in Richard S. Hillman ed. *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005.

Chapter 1: “The Context of Latin American Politics” in Howard J. Wiarda and Harvey F. Kline (eds.) *Latin American Politics and Development*. Cambridge MA: Westview Press, 2007.

June 30: The Legacy of Colonialism

Hernan Cortés: “Two Letters to Charles V,” 1520

Chapter 2: “Legacies of Empire” in Peter Winn, *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

July 1: Latin American Independence

Simón de Bolívar: “Message to the Congress of Angostura,” 1819.

Chapter 3: “The Perils of Progress” in *Americas*.

Chapter 4: “Creole Pioneers” in Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*.

George Reid Andrews, “Spanish American Independence: A Structural Analysis”, *Latin American Perspectives* 1985; 12; 105.

Week 2: The Social Question

July 6: Overview of Latin American Economies and the Social Question

Rigoberta Menchú, “Acceptance and Nobel Lecture,” December 10, 1992.

Fernando Ortiz, “The Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar.”

Richard K. Harper and Alfred G. Cuzán, “The Economies of Latin America,” in Richard S. Hillman (ed.), *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*.

Chapter 2: “Growth and the Quality of Life over the Century,” in Thorp, Rosemary. *Progress, Poverty, and Exclusion: An Economic History of Latin America in the 20th Century*. 1998. New York: Inter-American Development Bank.

July 7: Peronism and the Age of Populism

Eva Perón, “My Labour in the Field of Social Aid,” 1949.

Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976*. (selections)

Chapter 4: “A Second Independence?” in *Americas*.

July 8: Revolution (QUIZ #1)

Ernesto “Che” Guevara, “Speech at the United Nations,” December 11, 1964, 19th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Chapter 13: “Making Revolution” in *Americas*.

Peter Winn, “Loosing the Chains Labor and the Chilean Revolutionary Process, 1970-1973.” *Latin American Perspectives*, 1976.

Week 3: the Cold War

July 13: Coup in Guatemala and the US Response to the Cuban Revolution

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: The Latin American Cold War and Its Consequence*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. (selections)

July 14: Military Dictatorships in the Southern Cone

Salvador Allende’s Last Speech.

Chapter 1: “Chronicling a Coup Foretold? Previews of the Impossible” in Steve J. Stern. *Battling for Hearts and Minds: Memory Struggles in Pinochet’s Chile, 1973-1988*. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006).

Manuel Antonio Garretón, “The Political Evolution of the Chilean Military Regime and Problems in the Transition to Democracy,” in Guillermo O’Donnell, Philippe C. Schmitter, and Laurence Whitehead, eds. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

July 15: Insurgency: Central America and Beyond

The Guatemalan Truth Commission [Commission for Historical Clarification] Final Report (selections)

Steve Stern, “Introduction. Beyond Enigma: An Agenda for Interpreting Shining Path and Peru, 1980-1995,” in Steve J. Stern (ed.), *Shining and Other Paths: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995* (Latin America Otherwise Series: Languages, Empires, Nations).

Week 4: Democratization

July 20: The Dynamics of Democratization

“The Implications of Prior Regime Type for Transition Paths and Consolidation Tasks,” in Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe*.

July 21: Democratization in South America

Part III (Chapters 10-14): “South America: Constrained Transitions” in *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*.

July 22: Peace and Democracy in Central America (QUIZ #2)

Elisabeth J. Wood, “Explaining Insurgent Collective Action” in *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Carlos M. Vilas, "Prospects for Democratisation in a Post-Revolutionary Setting: Central America." *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (May, 1996), pp. 461-503.

Week 5: Law, Society and Human Rights

July 27: The Human Rights Question

BBC News, "Argentine Sues 'Dirty War' Couple," 12 March 2008.

Selections from the Chilean Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and the Brazilian Commission on Torture Report.

Priscilla Hayner, "Fifteen Truth Commissions – 1974 to 1994: a Comparative Study." *Human Rights Quarterly*, 1994.

Alexandra Barahona de Brito, "Truth, Justice, Memory and Democratization in the Southern Cone," in Alexandra Barahona De Brito, Carmen Gonzalez Enriquez, Paloma Aguilar (Eds.) *The Politics of Memory: Transitional Justice in Democratizing Societies* (Oxford Studies in Democratization). ONLINE READING. Go to: <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/oso/private/content/politicalscience/9780199240906/p050.html#acprof-0199240906-chapter-5>

July 28: "When Tyrants Tremble": Trials of Augusto Pinochet, Alberto Fujimori and the Argentine Junta

APRODEH (A Peruvian Human Rights Organization), "The Trial of Fujimori."

Ellen Lutz and Kathryn Sikkink, "Justice Cascade: The Evolution and Impact of Foreign Human Rights Trials in Latin America." *Chicago Journal of International Law*; Spring 2001; 2, 1.

Naomi Roht- Arriaza, *The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights*. (Selections)

July 29: Internal Conflict and Demobilization in Colombia

Christopher Welna, "Colombia's Triple Challenge: Peace, Democracy and Human Rights" in Christopher Welna, Gustavo Gallon, *Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights in Colombia*.

Nazih Richani, "The Politics of Negotiating Peace in Colombia," NACLA Report on the Americas, 10714839, May/Jun2005, Vol. 38, Issue 6.

Week 6: Current Debates

August 3: Neoliberalism (QUIZ #3)

John Williamson, "What Washington Means by Policy Reform," in John Williamson (ed.) *Latin American Adjustment: How Much Has Happened?*

Judith A. Teichman "Competing Visions of Democracy and Development in the Era of Neoliberalism in Mexico and Chile." *International Political Science Review*. 2009. 30(1): 67-87.

Philip Oxhorn, "Is the Century of Corporatism Over? Neoliberalism and the Rise of Neopluralism", in P. Oxhorn and Graciela Ducatzenzeiler (eds.), *What Kind of Democracy?*

Brian Potter, "Constricting Contestation, Coalitions, and Purpose: The Causes of Neoliberal Restructuring and Its Failures". *Latin American Perspectives* 2007; 34; 3

Robert R. Kaufman "The Political Effects of Inequality in Latin America: Some Inconvenient Facts," conference paper.

August 4: Challenges to Neoliberalism and the Resurgence of the Left

Jorge Castañeda, "Latin America's Left Turn." *Foreign Affairs*, May/Jun2006, Vol. 85, Issue 3.

Kurt Weyland, "The Rise of Latin America's Two Lefts: Insights from Rentier State Theory." *Comparative Politics*, January 2009.

Richard Gott - *Hugo Chávez and The Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela* (selections).

Dick Parker, "Chávez and the Search for an Alternative to Neoliberalism," *Latin American Perspectives* 2005; 32; 39.

Richard Stahler-Sholk, Harry E. Vanden and Glen David Kuecker, "Globalizing Resistance: The New Politics of Social Movements in Latin America," *Latin American Perspectives* 2007; 34; 5.

James Dunkerley, "Evo Morales, the 'Two Bolivias' and the Third Bolivian Revolution," *Journal of Latin American Studies* (2007), 39:1:133-166.

David Samuels, "From Socialism to Social Democracy: Party Organization and the Transformation of the Workers' Party in Brazil." *Comparative Political Studies* 2004; 37; 999.

August 5: Conclusion

Ronald Schneider. "Conclusions and a Look into the Future" in *Latin American Political History: Patterns and Personalities*. 2007. Boulder: Westview Press.

Peter Winn, "Epilogue: Latin America and the Caribbean in the Twenty-first Century: A New Millennium?" in *Americas*.

Films:

Week 1: City of God

Week 2: Machuca

Week 3: The Battle for Chile

Week 4: The Official History