

Government 328L (85357)/Latin American Studies 337M (86122)

## INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Summer second session, M-F 1-2:20  
Professor Henry Dietz

Office: Batts 3.124  
Office hours: M, W 2:30-4:00

Government 328L is an introductory course to the politics of Latin America. It assumes no prior knowledge of the region, nor does it require any knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese. It does expect an open mind about how politics works, since much of the course will not be familiar to those of you whose experiences and knowledge of politics are based on the United States.

We begin with some introductory materials dealing first with the geography and history of the region, and then with some economic characteristics. We then cover the major actors in the political arena, identify four basic models of politics, and then conclude with an examination of US-Latin American relations.

328L/337M is an overview course, and cannot cover every topic of interest or of relevance to the region. In addition, the course does not pretend to investigate any single nation in depth. The course does move along quickly, and while the quantity of reading material is not great, I will expect you to know the assigned materials thoroughly. Therefore, it is an excellent idea to keep up with the readings.

There are two mid-terms and a final exam; each is composed of short answers and an essay question. These count one third apiece; they are not comprehensive. I will factor in in-class participation and improvement over the semester.

Any student with disabilities may request appropriate accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259).

A notice regarding academic dishonesty: You should all be familiar with the UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (see the University Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>)

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Grading: final grades will be determined on a +/- basis as follows:

93-100 = A	80-82 = B-	69-67 – D+
90-92 = A-	77-79 = C+	66-63 – D
87-89 = B+	73-76 = C	60-62 – D-
83-86 = B	70-72 = C-	Below 60 – F

## BOOKS FOR PURCHASE

Blake, **Politics in Latin America, second edition (2008)**

Wiarda and Kline, **A Concise Introduction to Latin American Politics and Development (2007)**

Weeks, **US and Latin American Relations (2008)**

\*Reading by Charles Anderson, to be distributed in class

## SYLLABUS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

11 July - **Introduction to the Course**

12, 13, 14 15 July - **History and Socio-Economic Conditions**

Wiarda and Kline, chapters 1-3

\*Anderson (class handout)

Blake, Chapters 1-4

18, 19, 20 July - **Major Political Actors**

Wiarda and Kline, chapters 4-7

**21 July - First Examination**

22 July – 3 August - **Democracy, Populism, Authoritarianism and Revolution**

During these weeks read Blake, chapters 5-11, as well as the materials on Peru in Chapters 2, 3 and 4. Read in addition Wiarda and Kline, chapter 8.

We shall spend a certain amount of time in class discussing how to read these chapters, what to look for, and how to organize the materials found in them. Basically, read these chapters for episodes in each country that represent experience with the four models. Consider especially why democracy succeeded or failed, and why the other models likewise succeeded or failed.

**4 August - Second Examination**

5, 8, 9, 10, 11 December - **US-Latin American Relations**

Weeks, chapters 1- plus

. Read also Blake, chapter 12.

**Final exam – Friday, 12 August, during class time.**

