INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
(SPRING 2011)

COURSE MEETINGS:  Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., Mezes B0.306

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This course will provide a basic introduction to the evolving politics of Latin America. We will explore the roots of the major political and economic trends that have swept Latin America during the last century. The trends analyzed range from populism and revolutionary movements to democratization and neoliberal reform. We will also examine the politics of ethnicity, gender, religion, and the environment in the region. The first section focuses on Latin American political history. The second section examines authoritarianism and democracy in the region. And the third section analyzes some of the main social and economic challenges facing the region. Although the course will focus on issues affecting Latin America as a whole, some lectures and readings will examine how these trends affected individual countries within the region.

UT-Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be assessed based on three in-class examinations, a 7-8 page research paper, and 6 pop quizzes. The first two examinations will be worth 30 points and will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The third examination will be worth 15 points and will only contain multiple choice questions. Each examination will only cover the material discussed since the previous exam. There is no final exam in this class. The research paper, which is also worth 15 points, must focus on a contemporary issue in Latin American politics. The pop quizzes will be worth 2 points each. I will not accept any excuses for missing a pop quiz, but I will drop one of the six quizzes in calculating your final grade. In order to calculate your final grade, I will sum all of the points you have received in the class and convert the points into letter grades using the following scale:

93-100 = 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-  
Below 60 = F

I will round up scores of 0.5 and higher and round down scores of less than 0.5. I do not allow extra credit assignments and no exceptions will be made to the above system of converting points into letter grades.
Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


A course packet of additional readings will be available on E-Reserves or may be purchased at Paradigm (407 W. 24th St., tel: 472-7986).

WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1 (Jan. 18 and 20) Introduction to Latin America: People, geography and politics

Hillman, Ch. 1 "Introduction"

Hillman, Ch. 2 "Latin America: A Geographical Preface".

Hillman, Ch. 4 "Latin American Politics".

Winn, Chapter 1 "A View from the South".

I. LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY

Week 2 (Jan. 25 and 27) Latin America before 1930

Hillman, Ch. 3 "The Historical Context".

Winn, Chapter 2 "Legacies of Empire".


Week 3 (Feb. 1 and 3) Populism and Industrialization

Hillman, Ch. 6 "The Economies of Latin America".

Winn, Chapter 4, "A Second Independence".

Weeks 4-5 (Feb. 8, 10, and 15) Revolutionary Movements

Winn, Chapter 13, "Making Revolution".


Feb. 17. 1st examination

II. AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA

Week 6-7 (Feb. 22, 24, and March 1) Military regimes

Hillman, Chapter 5 "The Military."


Winn, Chapter 5 "Capital Sins".

Weeks 7-8 (March 3, 8 and 10) Democracy and Democratization in Latin America

Smith, Introduction and Chs. 1-4, pp. 1-133

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10 (March 22 and 24) Democratic Institutions

Smith, Chs. 5-7, pp. 137-209


Week 11 (March 29 and 31) Consolidation of Democracy

Smith, Ch. 8-12 and epilogue, pp. 213-345.
April 5. 2nd examination

III. CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Week 12 (April 7). Urbanization and the Environment

Hillman, Ch. 8, "The Environment, Population and Urbanization".

Winn, Ch. 6 "Continent on the Move".


Week 13 (April 12 and 14). Crisis and economic reform


Week 14 (April 19 and 21). Race and ethnicity in Latin America.

Hillman, Ch. 9 "Patterns of Race, Ethnicity, Class and Nationalism.".

Winn, Ch. 7, "Children of the Sun."

Winn, Ch. 8, "A Question of Color".

Week 15 (April 26 and 28). Gender in Latin America

Hillman, Ch. 10 "Women, Work, and Politics".

Winn, Ch. 9, "In Women's Hands".


April 28. Research paper due in class.

Week 16 (May 3). The Church in Latin America

Hillman, Ch. 12 "Religion in Latin America."

Winn, Ch. 10, "The Power and the Glory."

May 5. 3rd Examination