Analytical Issues in Latin American Politics
Government 390L, Unique number 38980
LAS 384L, Unique number 40450
Tuesday, 12:30 – 3:30, Batts 1.104
Spring 2012

Professor Wendy Hunter
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Office Hours: Tues 8:30 – 9:30, Thurs 11:00 – 1:00, and by appointment

Course Description
This course is a graduate-level introduction to Latin American politics. It is designed to
provide students with the theoretical and analytical tools to engage in cross-national study
and research of political processes in Latin America. It explores alternative theoretical
approaches as well as substantive topics of major importance studied by scholars in the
field. Priority will be placed on critically examining the strengths and weaknesses of
various approaches to understanding political and economic change in the region. The
debates and theoretical currents that we will examine have been central not only in the
study of Latin American politics but also in the development of the sub-discipline of
Comparative Politics over the last thirty years.

Book to Purchase


All other readings have been posted on Blackboard.
Course Requirements

1. Seminar participation: The success of the seminar will depend first and foremost upon the active engagement of students. Barring extraordinary circumstances, students should always come prepared to discuss and debate the material. You must contact me ahead of time if you plan to miss a session.

2. Two position briefs. Twice during the semester students will write a brief (3-4 double-spaced pages in length) on the readings in response to questions that will be handed out. The same students who write for the week will lead off the class discussion. Students will sign up to select these days.

3. Two short essays. Students will be required to write two short essays (6–8 double-spaced pages) that critically analyze the readings around given questions. These essays must put forth and develop a thesis, not merely summarize/synthesize the readings.

4. Final Assignment: Students will be required to write a final integrative essay (10–12 double-spaced pages) in response to given questions OR come up with a research design for a proposed study. Instructions will follow on the latter. Doctoral students who plan on doing theses on Latin America are urged to consider the research design option.

Deadlines and Grade Determination
Seminar participation: 20 percent
Position papers: 5 percent each (students will sign up for two specific dates)
Two short essays: 20 percent each, due on February 29 and April 4
Final Essay: 30 percent, due on May 10 at 4PM

You should e-mail the class your position papers by 8:00 am on the day you will present. Please submit the essays to my government department box by 4:00 of the day they are due. I will not accept papers via e-mail. Late papers will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ SSD/

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 if you have any doubts about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism).
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1: 17 January – INTRODUCTION

No reading.

Week 2: 24 January – CULTURALISM


Week 3: 31 January - THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM


Week 4: 7 February – INTERNATIONAL DIFFUSION OF IDEAS AND POLICIES


**Week 5: 14 February - RATIONAL CHOICE**


**Week 6: 21 February – HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONALISM**


Week 7: 28 February – PATHS TO AUTHORITARIANISM


Week 8: 6 March – DEMOCRATIZATION


Week 9: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10: 20 March – THE CONSOLIDATION AND QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY


Week 11: 27 March – MARKET REFORMS


Week 12: 3 April –CHALLENGES OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY: SOCIAL POLICY AND CLIENTELISM


**Week 13: 10 April – POLITICAL PARTIES**


David Doyle. 2011. The legitimacy of political institutions: Explaining contemporary


**Week 14: 17 April – REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE OF PARTIES**


**Week 15: 24 April – RISE OF THE LEFT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**


**Week 16: 1 May – FINAL REFLECTIONS**
