INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS  
(SPRING 2013)

COURSE MEETINGS: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., Welch 2.304

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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.

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. Pop quizzes cannot be made up, 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. Students who wish to contest a grade must do so in writing within two weeks of the day on which the exams or papers were handed back in class.

I allow students with a reasonable excuse (e.g., an illness) to make up one exam per semester (but no quizzes)
without penalty. The makeup exam will take place within five days of the regularly scheduled exam at a time and date of my choosing. Students who need to miss a class due to a religious holiday should notify me at least fourteen days prior to the holiday. 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.

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

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 on academic integrity and plagiarism please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

REQUIRED TEXTS:


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

WEEKLY READINGS

Week 1 (Jan. 15 and 17) 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. 22 and 24) Pre-20th Century Latin America

Hillman, Ch. 3 "The Historical Context".

Winn, Chapter 2 "Legacies of Empire".

pp. 23-54 (Course packet).

**Week 3 (Jan. 29 and 31) Populism and Industrialization**

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

Winn, Chapter 4, "A Second Independence".


**Weeks 4-5 (Feb. 5, 7, and 12) Revolutionary Movements**

Winn, Chapter 13, "Making Revolution".


**Feb. 14. 1st examination**

**II. AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA**

**Week 6-7 (Feb. 19, 21, and 26) Military regimes**

Hillman, Chapter 5 "The Military."


Winn, Chapter 5 "Capital Sins".

**Weeks 7-8 (Feb. 28, March 5 and 7) Democracy and Democratization in Latin America**


**Week 9: Spring Break (March 11-15)**
Week 10 (March 19 and 21) Democratic Institutions

Smith, Chs. 5-7, pp. 135-208.


Week 11 (March 26 and 28) Consolidation of Democracy

Smith, Ch. 8-12 and epilogue, pp. 211-344.

April 2, 2nd examination

III. CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

Week 12 (April 4). Urbanization and the Environment

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

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


Week 13 (April 9 and 11). Crisis and economic reform


Week 14 (April 16 and 18). 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 23 and 25). Gender in Latin America

Hillman, Ch. 10 "Women, Work, and Politics".
Winn, Ch. 9, "In Women's Hands".


April 25. Research paper due in class.

Week 16 (April 30). The Church in Latin America

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

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

May 2. 3rd Examination