Fall 9-1-2000

PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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Politics of Latin America

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber
Political Science Department, course #325
Autumn 2000
Meets: Wednesdays 6:40-9:00 in LA 337
Office hours in LA 355: TR 3:40 - 5:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

This course is designed to introduce students to the complexity of contemporary Latin America. No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin America. I do, however, assume a willingness on the part of students to work hard in the effort to engage the intricacies and nuances of the region. Students should also appreciate that the readings this semester include a number of challenging chapters written from a political economy perspective. The political economy perspective is extremely useful in efforts to go beyond journalistic understandings of current policy debates in Latin America. However, the material can be difficult for those new to economics and distasteful to those who have learned to dislike sophisticated approaches to economic policymaking.

Grading: There will be three exams, two in-class and one take home. Each will count for one quarter of your grade. Class Attendance, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and participation will combine to count for the final quarter of your grade.

Students are required to read all assigned readings on time, and to come to class prepared to discuss them. All assigned readings must be read carefully and analytically before the class listed below for discussion. Students are required to come to class with a written question or statement regarding that day’s reading. Sometimes these will be completely of the student’s choosing, other times I will require you to address a particular theme or section of the reading. These may at times be handed in. Students may miss three classes without explanation. After that, students must bring a typed statement explaining their absence (a phone call or verbal communication is insufficient). Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you have a good reason for being late, convey it to me after class and be sure that I mark you present for that day:

It may well be necessary, from time to time, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact either the professor or another student to see what has been missed - and then to work hard to make it up by the next class.

Reading Assignments and Exam Schedule:
September 13 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 1-4
September 20 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 5-8
September 27 Gwynne and Kay, chapters 9-12
October 4 Exam #1
October 11 Frieden, Pastor and Tomz, Sections 1 and 2
October 18 Professor out of town, no class
October 25 Frieden, Pastor and Tomz, Sections 3 and 4
November 1 Frieden, Pastor and Tomz, Sections 5 and 6
November 8 Frieden, Pastor and Tomz, Section 7
November 15 Exam #2
November 22 Holiday
November 29 Jonas, first third of the book
December 6 Jonas, second third of the book
December 13 Jonas, last third of the book
Take Home Exam #3 due December 19 (my office, by 5:00pm)