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Fall 9-1-1994

### PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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# POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber  
University of Montana  
Political Science Department, course #325  
Fall 1994  
Meets: TR 3:40 - 5:00 in LA 337

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America Oxford University Press, THIRD EDITION, 1992.
2. Mark Rosenberg, A. Douglas Kincaid and Kathleen Logan, eds., Americas: An Anthology. Oxford University Press, 1992.
3. Stepan, Alfred, ed., Americas: New Interpretive Essays. Oxford University Press, 1992.
4. Orr, Bernadette and Bárbara Cruz, Americas: Study Guide. Oxford University Press, 1993.

The volumes by Skidmore/Smith, Rosenberg et al and Stepan are required readings. The Study Guide, while not required reading, can be quite useful to students. Additional readings listed below are on two hour reserve at the Mansfield Library.

This is an introductory course to Latin American politics. No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin American history, the history of U.S.-Latin American relations, or current issues and problems in the region. It does, however, assume a willingness to work hard to understand the histories of several Latin American countries, and a host of contemporary issues. Students are expected not only to read carefully all required readings, but to also come to class prepared to discuss it.

Your grade will be based primarily on three exams. The final exam, which is a take-home, essay exam, will count for 50% of the grade if it helps the student's overall grade (if it does not, all three exams will be weighted evenly). Graduate students are required to undertake an additional project (see me). In addition, students will have an opportunity to raise their grade through active participation in class discussion or lower their grade by high absenteeism and/or coming regularly unprepared to class.

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. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking with another student for lecture notes and any announcements that may have been made regarding scheduling or assignments.

### **UNIT 1: Introduction and Overview**

Unit 1 familiarizes us with the physical geography and demographic characteristics of the region and introduces the four primary themes of the course: 1) Latin America and the Caribbean have a distinct historical relationship to the rest of the world; 2) this external relationship in combination with domestic policy decisions has created significant internal tensions and instability; 3) although the region's history is replete with serious problems of political exclusion, economic deprivation, and social inequality, these conditions have not been accepted with resignation but have been met by innovative resistance and a search for new social, economic, political, cultural, and religious forms, resulting in innovations emphasizing the participation of formerly disenfranchised social groups; 4) innovations created in Latin America and the Caribbean have in turn altered the region's relationship to the global order. Unit 1 also introduces the student to two major interpretive theories of political and economic development in the Americas, modernization theory and dependency theory.

Modern Latin America, pp. 3-13 for August 30  
 Anthology, pp. 3-16 for August 30  
 Stepan, pp. 3-10 for August 30

### **UNIT 2: Legacies of Empire: From Conquest to Independence**

Unit 2 summarizes the key features of the colonial experience, the wars of independence and the early process of nation building in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Modern Latin America, pp. 14-42 for September 1  
 Anthology, pp. 17-47 for September 6

### **UNIT 3: The Garden of Forking Paths: Dilemmas of National Development**

Unit 3 traces the transition from the immediate postcolonial period to the challenges of economic and political development in the late nineteenth and early- to mid-twentieth centuries. The unit uses the example of Argentina to illustrate the policy choices facing political leaders in the Americas, their decisions, and the consequences of those actions. Students will be introduced to complex national economic development strategies, such as Import Substitution Industrialization and international economic concepts such as foreign exchange, balance of payments, and trade surplus/deficit. We will watch the unit video on September 13.

Modern Latin America, pp. 43-56 and 68-111 for September 8  
 Anthology, pp. 48-71 for September 13  
 Essays, chapter 2 by Smith for September 15

**EXAM #1 IS ON SEPTEMBER 20**

#### **UNIT 4: Capital Sins: Authoritarianism and Democratization**

Unit 4 examines key economic and political experiences shared by several major Latin American countries over the last 30 years: the Alliance for Progress, the rise of military regimes, the push for rapid economic development, the crippling debt crisis, and the eventual return of democratic government. There is also a special focus on the history of Brazil. We will watch the unit video on September 22.

Modern Latin America, pp. 56-62, 66-67 and 144-84 September 22  
Anthology, pp. 72-103 for September 27

Tony Smith, "The Alliance for Progress: The 1960s" in Abraham Lowenthal, *Exporting Democracy: The United States and Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991, pp. 71-89, (on reserve) for September 27

Optional reading: chapter 3 by Fishlow

#### **UNIT 5: Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization**

Unit 5 explores the causes and effects of migration, with a focus on Mexican migration within Mexico, to the U.S-Mexican border and into the United States. There is also a special focus on the history of Mexico. We will watch the unit video on October 4.

Modern Latin America, pp. 221-53 for September 29  
Anthology, pp. 104-36 for October 4  
Essays, chapter 11 by Fernández Kelly and Portes for October 6

#### **UNIT 6: Mirrors of the Heart: Color, Class, and Identity**

Unit 6 examines the complex issue of racial and ethnic identity in Latin America, and how these factors interact with gender, class, occupation, and generational factors. It also considers the impact on identity of urbanization, industrialization, the international media, and modern consumer culture in contemporary Latin America. We will watch the unit video on October 11.

Modern Latin America, pp. 185-87, 290-97, 308-11, and 403-4 for October 11  
Anthology, pp. 137-172 for October 11  
Essays, chapter 9 by Warren for October 13

Optional reading: chapter 10 by Maingot

**EXAM #2 IS ON OCTOBER 18**

### **UNIT 7: In Women's Hands: The Changing Roles of Women**

Unit 7 focuses on major changes in the roles of women in the Americas during the past 40 years. There is also a special focus on the history of Chile. We will watch the unit video on October 25

Modern Latin America, pp. 62-66 and 112-43 for October 20

Anthology, pp. 173-207 for October 25

Essays, chapter 6 by Navarro-Aranguren and chapter 5 by Safa and Butler Flora for October 27

### **UNIT 8: Miracles are Not Enough: Continuity and Change in Religion**

Unit 8 offers historical and contemporary perspectives on the role of religion in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on the Catholic Church. We will watch the unit video on November 1

Modern Latin America, pp. 326-30, 332-37 (review pp. 179-84) for November 1

Anthology, pp. 208-40 for November 1

Essays, chapter 7 by Crahan for November 3

### **UNIT 9: Builders of Images: Writers, Artists, and Popular Culture**

Unit 9 examines the diversity, vibrancy, and historical role of various forms of cultural expression in the Americas. The unit illustrates the complex roots of Latin American and Caribbean culture in indigenous, European, and African traditions. It explores the relationship between literature, painting, music, theater, and cinema on social relations and politics. There is also a special focus on Puerto Rico. We will watch the unit video on November 10.

Modern Latin America, pp. 301-3 for November 10

Anthology, pp. 241-71 for November 10

Essays, chapter 8 by Franco for November 15

### **UNIT 10: Get Up, Stand up: The Problems of Sovereignty**

Unit 10 examines the concept of sovereignty, and the important role it has played in the making of national identities and politics throughout the Americas. The role of the United States in the region, and its implications for national sovereignty will be introduced. We will watch the unit video on November 17.

Modern Latin America, pp. 298-301, 321-24 and 374-75 for November 17

Anthology, pp. 272-98 for November 17

Essays, chapter 1 by Knight for November 22

### **UNIT 11: Fire in the Mind: Revolutions and Revolutionaries**

Unit 11 examines revolutionary movements in twentieth-century Latin America using the examples of Mexico (1910-17), Cuba (1959), and Nicaragua (1979), as well as contemporary revolutionary processes in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Peru. The factors leading to the growth of revolutionary sentiment, the role of Marxism and other ideologies, the U.S. response, and the effect of the Cold War are discussed in the context of each country's experience. We will watch the unit video on November 29.

Modern Latin America, pp. 201-3 and 213-20, 254-56 and 263-82, 337-43 (and review 185-87, 228-33, 326-30, 332-37) for November 29

Anthology, pp. 299-334 for November 29

Essays, chapter 4 by Crahan and Smith for December 1

John Booth and Thomas Walker, "The Crisis of Poverty and Its Causes" and "A Theory About Central American Rebellions" in Booth and Walker, *Understanding Central America*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1989, pp. 8-14 and pp. 47-53 (on reserve) for December 1

### **UNIT 12: The Americans: Latin American and Caribbean Peoples in the United States**

Unit 12 considers the growth in numbers and importance of Latin American and Caribbean peoples living in the United States. The unit addresses three major questions: 1) Who is it that is coming to the United States? 2) What has been their experience? 3) How have the new immigrants affected U.S. politics, culture, and society? We will watch the unit video on December 6.

Modern Latin America, pp. 378-81 (review pp. 221-82, 301-3) for December 6

Anthology, 335-72 for December 6

Essays, chapter 12 by Rumbaut for December 8

### **UNIT 13: Course Review**

The main goal of Unit 13 is to review the four major themes of the class: 1) Latin America and the Caribbean have a distinct historical relationship to the rest of the world; 2) this external relationship in combination with domestic policy decisions has created significant internal tensions and instability; 3) although the region's history is replete with serious problems of political exclusion, economic deprivation, and social inequality, these conditions have not been accepted with resignation but have been met by innovative resistance and a search for new social, economic, political, cultural, and religious forms, resulting in innovations emphasizing the participation of formerly disenfranchised social groups; 4) innovations created in Latin America and the Caribbean have in turn altered the region's relationship to the global order. We will also want to discuss possible futures for Latin America and the relationship of Latin American and different groups of Latin Americans to the rest of the world.

Modern Latin America, pp. 344-406 for December 13

**EXAM #3 IS DUE DECEMBER 13**