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PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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Politics of Latin America Autumn 2007

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber

Political Science Department, course #325

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:10-3:30

Office hours in LA 355: TR 12:30 - 2:00 (and by appointment)

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Required Texts (available for purchase in UC Bookstore and elsewhere):

Henry Raymont, *Troubled Neighbors: The Story of US Latin American Relations from FDR to the Present*. Westview Press, 2005.

Richard Sandbrook, Marc Edelman, Patrick Heller, and Judith Teichman, *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Paul Haber, *Power from Experience: Urban Popular Movements in Late Twentieth-Century Mexico*. Penn State Press, 2006.

(If you are in my class, Politics of Social Movements, we will need to develop alternative assignment. See me.)

**A number of articles will be put on reserve at the Mansfield Library and/or placed on Blackboard (for Blackboard instructions, refer to separate instruction sheet). Details will be announced in class.

This course is designed to introduce students to the complexity of contemporary Latin American politics. In keeping with much of Latin American studies, we will approach our subject from an interdisciplinary perspective. Furthermore, again in keeping with much of Latin American studies, both our readings and class room discussions will employ – and interrogate - various theoretical frameworks for understanding empirical data. 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 and the literature we will together utilize as tools in this effort. The reading is quite extensive (averaging more than 100 pages a week) and intensive (some of it is quite sophisticated and theoretical) in this class. **Grading:** Exam 1 (40% of grade), Exam 2 (40%), attendance, assignments, and participation (20%).

All 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 we discuss them in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Make a serious effort to get to class on time. I regularly communicate with students by email. Those who do not check their email may well miss important information.

August 30	Raymont, pp. 1 – 68 (introduction, history, and Roosevelt)
September 4	Raymont, pp. 69 – 126 (Truman and Eisenhower)
September 6	Raymont, pp. 127 – 176 (Kennedy and Johnson)
September 11	Raymont, pp. 177 – 210 (Johnson and Nixon)
September 13	Raymont, pp. 211 – 258 (Ford and Carter)
September 18	Raymont, pp. 259 – 314 (Bush, Clinton, and very little bit on Bush II)
September 20	Sandbrook et al, Part I (Introduction), pp. 3-62
September 25	Sandbrook et al, chapters 3 and 4 (Kerala and Costa Rica), pp. 65-122
September 27	Sandbrook et al, chapters 5 and 6 (Mauritius and Chile), pp. 123-174
October 2	Sandbrook et al, Part III (Patterns and prospects), pp. 177 – 254
October 4	Study Review Day
October 9	Exam 1
October 11	Haber, Introduction and chapter 1
October 16	Haber, chapter 2
October 18	Haber, chapter 3
October 23	Haber, chapter 4
October 25	Haber, chapter 5
October 30	Haber, chapter 6
November 1	From here to the end of class will be announced at a later date.
November 6	
November 8	
November 13	
November 15	
November 20	
November 27	
November 29	
December 4	
December 6	

Final Exam slot: Monday December 10, 3:20-5:20