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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 2003

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email: haber@selway.umd.edu

Meets: Wednesdays 4:10-6:30
Office hours in LA 355: TR 12:30 - 2:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. Oxford University Press, 2002.
2. Forest Colburn. *Latin America at the End of Politics*. Princeton University Press, 2002.

These books will be supplemented by reserve readings. Some of them are listed below. Others will be announced later.

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.

Grading option number 1: Exam 1 (40% of grade), Exam 2 (40%), attendance and participation (20%)

Grading option 2: Exam 1 (25%), Exam 2 (25%), attendance/participation (25%) and country project (25%)

Country Project: All students selecting grading option 2 will complete a study on a theme that relates to one of the countries listed above. Students will write a five – ten page paper that will be presented to the class on the day we discuss the country. Length of class presentation will depend on a number of things, including number of students presenting and student preference. Students selecting this option must inform me no later than October 1.

Important dates: September 22 is the last day to drop class by Cyberbear and the last day to select audit grade option. October 13 is the last day to drop courses with instructor and advisor signatures on a drop/add form. A WP or WF will appear on your transcript for courses dropped after October 13. October 13 is also the last day to change from P/NP to traditional letter grade or vice versa.

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. Students may miss one class without explanation. After that, you must bring a typed statement explaining the absence (a phone call or verbal communication is both unnecessary and insufficient). Make a serious effort to get to class on time. If you come late, let me know why, and above all, make sure I put you down as not being absent. I regularly communicate with students by email, so if you do not have an address, try to get one soon. Those who do not check their email may well miss important information.

September 3	Introduction to the class. No reading.
September 10	Colburn, chapters 1-8
September 17	Colburn, chapters 9-15
September 24	Vanden and Prevost, Introduction and chapters 1-3
October 1	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 4 (and selected readings on indigenous movements)
October 8	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 5-6
October 15	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 7-8
October 22	Vanden and Prevost, chapters 9-10 (Revolutions and Guatemala)
October 29	Exam 1
November 5	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 11 (and other Mexico readings)
November 12	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 12 (and other Cuba readings)
November 19	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 13 (and other Central American readings)
November 26	Holiday
December 3	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 14 (and other Argentina readings)
December 10	Vanden and Prevost, chapter 15 (and other Chile readings)
December 17	Exam 2 (5:30-7:30)