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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 1997

office phone: 243-4862

Meets: TR 2:10-3:30 in LA 337

Office hours in LA 355: TR 3:40 - 5:00 (and by appointment)

Books available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

1. Richard Hillman, ed., *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. Lynne Rienner, 1997.
2. William Smith and Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz, eds., *Politics, Social Change, and Economic Restructuring in Latin America*. North-South Press, 1996.
3. Elizabeth Jelin and Eric Hershberg, eds., *Constructing Democracy: Human Rights, Citizenship, and Society in Latin America*. Westview Press, 1996.

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 to understand the complexities and nuances of contemporary Latin America.

Grading:

Exam #1 1/3

Exam #2 1/3

Class Attendance, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and participation 1/3

Students have the option of a second grading scheme: Students may opt to do a class facilitation on any of the themes covered in the readings. These may be done individually or as a team. Students selecting this option must have it approved by the professor at least one week prior to the facilitation. In this case, the grading would be

Exam #1 1/4

Exam #2 1/4

Class Attendance, in-class assignments, homework assignments, and participation 1/4

Class facilitation 1/4

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 typed question or statement regarding that day's reading.** These will be handed in. Students may miss three classes without explanation. After that, students must bring a typed statement explaining their absence. 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.

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.

Part I: Introduction to Contemporary Latin America

September 4: Introduction and Geography, chaps. 1 & 2
September 9: Historical Context, chap. 3
September 11: Politics, chap. 4
September 16: The Military, chap. 5
September 18: Economics, chap. 6 and Haber's essay on neoliberalism (on reserve)
September 23: International Relations, chap. 7

September 25: The Environment, Population, and Urbanization, chap. 8
September 30: Patterns of Ethnicity, Class, and Nationalism, chap. 9
October 2: Women in Latin America, chap. 10
October 7: Education and Development, chap. 11
October 9: Religion, chap. 12
October 14: Literature and Conclusions, chaps. 13 & 14

October 16: Exam Workshop
October 21: Exam #1

Part 2: Politics, Social Change, and Economic Restructuring in Latin America

October 23: Theoretical and Historical Perspectives, chaps. 1-3
October 28: Social Change, Social Actors, and Citizenship, chaps. 4 & 5
October 30: Comparative Case Studies, chaps. 6 & 7
November 4: Comparative Case Studies, chaps. 8 & 9
November 6: Social Change and the World Economy, chap. 10

Part 3: Constructing Democracy

November 13: Settling Accounts with the Past, chaps. 1 - 3
November 18: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (readings on reserve)
November 20: The International Scene, chaps. 4 & 5
November 25: Citizenship in Democracy, chaps. 6 & 7
December 2: Structures of Discrimination, chaps. 8 & 9
December 4: Structures of Discrimination and Conclusions, chaps. 10 - 12

December 9: Exam Workshop
December 11: Exam #2