Political Science 304 A  
Latin American Politics  
Steven F. Austin State University  
Fall 2010

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Office Hours: MW: 12:00pm-1:30pm, TU: 11:00am-2:00pm, F: 12:00pm-1:00pm  
Department of Government  
Meetings: 2:00pm -3:15pm, MW, F371

Course Description:  
“(A) Latin America … - Government and politics of the principal countries of each area.” 2010- 
2011 General Bulletin, P.360

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:  
This course is associated with the major, second major, and minor in political science. The  
course is not a part of the general education core curriculum. No specific general education objectives  
or outcomes are addressed in this course.

Program Learning Outcomes:  
PLO # 4 – “the student will differentiate a range of political systems and/or perspectives.”

Student Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of the course, students will be able to:  
a. Explain how historical experiences, traditional and religious values influence contemporary  
society, perspectives, and political systems.  
b. Use theories of colonialism, theology, nationalism, and regionalism to explain Latin American  
politics.  
c. Use cultural reasons to compare similarities and differences between and among different Latin  
American political systems and politics.  
d. Explain how and why Latin American democracies are different from the developed West.  
e. Explain why Latin American countries’ international relations are intertwined with their  
respective domestic politics and economy.

Text and Materials: All Required  
1. Latin American Politics  
   By David Close  
   University of Toronto Press, 2009  
   ISBN: 978-1-44260-137-6  
2. Latin America  
   By Paul B. Goodwin Jr.  
   McGraw-Hill Publisher, 13th edition, paperback  
   ISBN: 978-0-07-337982-1
3. A course pack of additional reading will be purchased after the class begins.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:
1. There will be two examinations each count 30% of the course grade. A research paper of 6-8 pages will be another 30% of the course grade. There will be an entire class period to discuss the research assignment.
2. The rest 10% course grade is for student participation. You will cultivate a habit to research for news clips of Latin American political issues related to the course lecture topics: please bring the print out of the article to class, present and discuss it in class. Each piece of news is 2% course grade.
3. Grade A: 90-100; Grade B: 80-89; Grade C: 70-79; Grade D: 60-69; Grade F: 59 and below.

Attendance Policy:
Due to the fact that all lectures and class discussion materials will be included in your examinations and the lectures will explain difficult reading materials, attending classes is a necessity for getting a good course grade. A class attendance sheet will be handed out at every class meeting. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in at every class meeting attended. Please remind the instructor during the class if you have not seen the attendance sheet.

You are allowed a maximum of 6 absences for any reasons during the semester without explanation or penalty. From the 7th on each absence will reduce 2% of the course grade. It is the responsibility of the absent student to get notes from his/her classmates. The instructor will not provide notes to encourage further absences. On the other hand, a student with perfect attendance records (attending every class throughout the entire semester) will be rewarded 5% extra course grade. This might be crucial for some students whose accumulated points are on the borderline to get a better letter grade for the course.

Student Responsibilities:
All students are required to take good notes (including the contents of the video movies showing in class), read the assigned material prior the lectures, organize your notes after the lectures, and take examinations at the scheduled time. Students are encouraged to be active learners and critic thinkers: come to classes with questions from the reading assignments and participate in class discussions. However, in order to keep the classes focused on planned topic, please save questions and discussions not related to the topics of the day. You are encouraged to visit the instructor at the office hours to continue the questioning and discussions.

When you come to the class, you are required to turn off your cell phones, MP3, and unplug your earphones. No flash light picture taking of the PowerPoint on screen, no other disturbing devices are allowed in class. No voice recording of lectures unless you have the permission of the Office of Disability Service and the instructor.

When you are not on campus, the preferred method contacting the instructor is by direct email, not the email from inside of MyCourses (I cannot reply from there). If you call the instructor from a long distance phone number, you are not getting a phone reply due to the administration phone budget limitation. Disruptive classroom behavior of any students who are performing poorly, attending irregularly, or behaving erratically will be reported to the Early Alert Program.
“Acceptable Student Behavior” by Student Affairs, SFASU

“Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to confirm to standards of academic integrity found in the SFA rules, regulations, and policies listed below. All cases of academic dishonesty will be punished according to SFA policies and procedures. Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: from page 45 of 2010-2011 General Bulletin, SFASU

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) falsifying or inventing any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy on page 45 of 2010-2011 General Bulletin, or at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/
Schedule of Course Assignments: This tentative reading assignment schedule may be altered as the semester progresses. Advance notice will be provided in those cases.

Week One: August 30 to September 3
Introduction to Latin American Politics
Reading: Country Studies: Cuba, Venezuela (Latin America, 13th edition, by Paul B. Goodwin)
1. Maps: Pages. iii, 2, 7, 16, 53, and 116 (Goodwin)
2. Pp. 3-6, (Goodwin)
3. Chapter 1, Pp. 1-23, (Latin American Politics by David Close)

Week Two: September 6-10, No class on Monday: Labor Day
General Information of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean
Reading: Country Studies: Mexico, Columbia
1. Pp. 17-22, 54-60, 17-122, (Goodwin)
2. Latin America’s Indigenous Peoples, by Hall & Patrinos (Article 5 in Goodwin)
3. Latin America’s Drug Problem, by Michael Shifter (Article 8 in Goodwin)
4. Mexico’s Drug Wars Get Brutal, by Francisco E. Gonzalez (Course Pack)

Week Three: September 13-17
The Traditional and Colonial Latin America
Reading: Country Studies: Bolivia (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 2, pp. 23-48pp. (Close)

Week Four: September 20-24
Independence and early Power Elites
Research Paper Assignment
Reading: Country Studies: Brazil, Uruguay (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 3, pp. 49-62, 68-76 (Close)

Week Five: September 27 to October 1
Culture and Modes of Government
Reading: Country Studies: Nicaragua, Argentina (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 4, pp. 77-104 (Close)
2. Latin America’s Left Turn, by Jorge G. Castaneda (Article 2, Goodwin)
3. A ‘Test-Drive’ Transfer of Power? By DeYoung & Roig-Franzia (Article 21,Goodwin)

Week Six: October 4 – 8
Ideology, Religion, and Politics
Video: God and Politics with Bill Moyers,
Reading: Country Studies: El Salvador, Honduras (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 3, pp. 62-68 (Close)
2. The Theology of Liberation, pp. 51-65, by Edward L. Cleary, O.P. (Course Pack)
3. Oscar Romero and Revolution in El Salvador, by Thomas Bokenkotter (Course Pack)
4. Liberating Pachamama , from The Economist, (Article 16, Goodwin)

Research Proposal Due on Wed. in Class
**Week Seven:** October 11-15
Review and Midterm Exam

**Midterm Exam:** October 13, Wed.

**Week Eight:** October 18-22
Political Change, Contention, and New Contenders

**Reading:** Country Studies: Chile, Peru (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 5 pp. 105-132 (Close)
2. Slaking a Thirst for Justice, from *The Economist* (Article 13, Goodwin)

**Week Nine:** October 25-29
Government Institutions

**Reading:** Country Studies: Honduras, Ecuador (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 6 pp. 133-156 (Close)
2. Behind the Honduran Mutiny, by Jose De Cordoba (Course Pack)
3. Female Leaders on Rise, by Jack Chang (Article 1, Goodwin)

**Week Ten:** November 1 – 5
Democracy and Democratization

**Reading:** Country Studies: Haiti, Costa Rica (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 7 pp. 157-182 (Close)
2. Youth, Violence, and Democracy, by Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (Article 11, Goodwin)
3. The Return of Populism, from *The Economist* (Article 14, Goodwin)

**Week Eleven:** November 8 - 12
Political Economy and Economic Policy

**Reading:** Country Studies: Brazil, Peru (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 8 pp. 183-206 (Close)
2. Stuck in a Rut, by Saavedra & Arias (Article 7, Goodwin)
3. Shade Coffee & Tree Cover Loss, by Blackman, Avalos-Sartorio, & Chow (Article 12, Goodwin)
4. Racial Disparities Threaten Economic Vitality, by Peter Ortiz (Article 18, Goodwin)

**Week Twelve:** November 15-19
International Political Economy

**Reading:** Country Studies: Panama (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 9 pp. 207-230 (Close)
2. Reform and Corruption in Latin America, by Kurt Weyland (Article 3, Goodwin)
3. Latin America’s Resurgence, by Anoop Singh & Charles Collyns (Article 4, Goodwin)

**Week Thirteen:** November 22-26, **No class on Wed. Thanksgiving Holiday starts.**
Latin America International Relations

**Reading:** Panama, Jamaica (Goodwin)
1. Chapter 10 pp. 231-256 (Close)
2. History of Latin America Relations with the United States (Selected pages from U.S. and Latin American Relations)

**Research paper due on Monday, Nov. 22, no late work or emailed copy accepted.**
**Week Fourteen**: November 29-December 3  
International Relations with countries other than the US  
**Reading:**  
1. Lula’s Brazil, by Andrew Hurrell, (course pack)  
2. China’s Latin Leap Forward, by Joshua Kurlantzick (Article 9, Goodwin)  
3. Latin America’s New Petro-Politics, by Nadia Martinez (Article 17, Goodwin)  

**Week Fifteen**: December 6-10  
Conclusion and Review  
**Reading:**  
1. Chapter 11 pp. 257-274 (Close)  

**Week Sixteen**: December 13-17  
Final Examination: 10:30am-12:30pm, Friday, December 17  
End of the Semester  
Happy Winter Vacation!  

**Research Paper Assignment**  
You will pick your own research topic for your term paper: on one manageable important political issue of a Latin American country.  

**Your Proposal: Turn in Your One Page Proposal with an Annotated bibliography:**  
1. Choose a topic;  
2. Define a problem.  
3. Ask a research question.  
4. Go to libraries to do your first research. Find at least five professional journal articles or books that would answer your research question and write how each source could help you. **This is your library research exercise.**  
5. Write a **one-page proposal** about how you plan to approach your paper.  
6. Turn in with your **annotated bibliography**: Each book should have a title; author or editor, publisher, date of publishing, and how this particular book would help your research.  
7. I will check and help you to tailor your plans and have a one on one talk about your proposal to make sure that your proposals will be workable.  

**The writing process**  
During your writing, come to my office during my office hours when you need help. That would keep you to improve your research and to stay on the right track.  

**Paper Due Day:**  
The paper is due on November 22, Monday, Week Thirteen.  

**Grading Criteria for your Research Paper:**  
1. Your research paper is 30% of the course grade.  
2. The **introduction** should include: a. Define a problem; b. Clearly stated research question; c. a hypotheses; d. A road map about how you plan to write your text.
3. Keep your writing focused on the theme and answer the research question throughout the paper.
4. Use facts and data to support your statements, not your personal opinions or other people’s opinions for your reasoning.
5. Analyze your facts: argue how they explain and answer your research question.
6. All your personal statements should be supported by facts from your research.
7. Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
8. Make smooth transitions between paragraphs.
9. You must write a Conclusion to conclude your findings of your research; or you may explain how different your findings are different from your hypotheses with brief reasons.
10. Use proper style learned in your English composition class. Proofread your paper. You are responsible for your English grammar, spelling, and punctuations in your final product. Use the SFA Online Writing Lab to correct your English: http://mycourses.sfasu.edu
11. The paper should be six to eight letter size pages in length, typed with 12 pin, double-spaced with no more than one inch margins on all sides.
12. Use a cover page, staple at the upper left corner. Do not use a plastic folder, or a binder.
13. Citation: A citation requires at least the last name of the author(s), year of publication, and Page number. The Chicago style is encouraged.
14. Give citations to all reference information used in your paper, not only for direct quotations. Make sure to give citations for information from your sources you paraphrased with your own words.
15. Bibliography: A bibliography should follow the text. List all the books, articles, newspapers, journals, and other sources you used in your paper with the sequence by authors’ last names alphabetized. They should include Author’s last name, first name, initial, year of publication, name of the book or article (name of the journal, volume), and publisher.
16. If you use any materials from Internet, make sure that your source is credible and valid. You will give not only the Internet address, but also the name of the author, the article, the journal, and the date of publication, etc. If the information is not easy to write out in the bibliography, please print out the source and turn it in with your paper.

Definition of Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is copying a part or all of other people’s work without citing the source. It can also refer to using someone’s phrasing and ideas without proper citation or credit for the source. Plagiarism could be both accidental and intended. It is a violation of the civil law. Such misconduct will lead to disciplinary action. Even it is accidental, could affect your reputation of your intellectual honesty.

Plagiarism is no lesser an offense than cheating. Papers include but are not limited to repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, and presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own.