Latin American Politics & Government

Pols 341- Spring 2012

Class Meets: M, W 10-11:15 am Class Location Dickson 175

Office Hours MW 8:30-10:00 am Office Location Dickson 209

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*What will the course do?*

Over the next few months, we will explore Latin American politics from a comparative perspective. We will first try to get a basic idea of Latin America today before going into the history of the region. After that we will focus on specific issues related to the political regimes, institutions, and political action. Throughout the semester, we will give special attention to politics in Brazil, Latin America’s largest country, while also looking at other case studies along the way. Each student will broaden the cases discussed by adopting one country (other than Brazil) for the semester.

*How will your learning be assessed?*

This class is highly interactive and requires active participation. Students will be required to answer six response papers. These papers should be six hundred to one thousand words in length. Half of these papers will be handed to a peer for comments before they are turned into me, while the other half will be directly submitted to me.

Students will also participate in one group presentation during week five. Each group will consist of three to five members (depending on the size of the class). The group will be responsible for jointly researching a question in scholarly literature, for selecting cases that will be useful for proving an argument, and for analyzing those cases. The first person will present the introduction, argument, case selection to the class; the second person will present the literature review; and the remaining people will analyze cases.

Students will complete a research paper of five hundred to sixty five hundred words (including sources and notations). While the paper may be inspired by the student’s earlier presentation, the cases selected by the student must be distinct. The final paper will be delivered in draft form in Week Nine to three peers who will provide feedback (as explained below). The draft and final version, as well as copies of peer feedback will be due in Week Eleven. The final paper will account for forty percent of student grades, while the response papers and the presentations will each account for twenty percent, feedback on peer partner research papers and participation will account for ten percent each.

Possible subjects (you will need to find arguments) for the final paper include: Democratization, consolidation, policy switches, institutionalization, participatory budgeting, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, social movements, electoral rules, clientelism, credibility, legitimacy, populism, neoliberalism, military depoliticization, race, ethnicity, political parties

**Please NOTE**: In order to cut down on paper (but still preserve my eyesight), I listed above the number of words expected for each assignment (rather than pages). Please print your papers in 14 point Times New Roman font, print ‘two sheets to a page,’ and print on both sides of the page. This will allow something that looks like book format (so you should have two columns of text on each side of the paper).

*What will you be reading?*

I chose the readings and topics to challenge you with things that are both familiar and foreign. Some of the readings are more difficult and others are more fun. All of them should encourage you to muse about the relationships between people, institutions, conditions, and events that are part of the authors’ arguments. The truth is that it takes two to tango and essays cannot be thought-provoking unless the reader reads them deeply, carefully, in a thoughtful manner.

Most of your readings will come from:

Hellinger, Daniel C., *Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at Last?* New York: Routledge, 2011.

Kingstone, Peter and Timothy Power Ed., *Democratic Brazil Revisited*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.

Panizza, Francisco, Panizza, Francisco. *Contemporary Latin America: Development and Democracy Beyond the Washington Consensus.* New York: Zed Books. 2009.

In addition, I highly recommend that you keep up with the news as well. Being familiar with what is going on in world politics will make you feel more comfortable in class discussions. So, try to browse the websites of the New York Times, CNN, or BBC. If you want more in-depth analysis check out the Economist or OpenDemocracy.net. Also, when you are doing research for your essays or in preparation for classroom discussions, you should search peer-reviewed academic journals either in the library or online.

Week One Latin America Today- A Snapshot- *listen, see, taste*

*Define Latin America, Latin American Politics, Comparative Politics*

Nicholas Lemann, “The Anointed: A Reporter at Large,” *The New Yorker* 87, 39, 5 Dec 2011.

Enrique Krauze, “The Shah of Venezuela,” *The New Republic,* 1 April 2009.

Mario Vargas Llosa, “The Paradoxes of Latin America,” *The American Interest,* Jan/Feb 2008.

Miguel Centeno, “Latin America in a Globalized World,” *The American Interest,* Jan/Feb 2008.

Week Two Latin America Today: Different Approaches

*Response Paper #1 (handed into peer): What are the two most pressing challenges facing Latin America?*

Hellinger 1. Conceptions of Democracy 2. Inequality, Political Culture, and Popular Sovereignty

Kingstone and Power (K&P) Introduction

Panizza 1. Introduction, 2. Paradigm Found

*Selected presentation topics*

*Below are some possible presentation topics. Topics not listed here may be considered with the instructor’s permission. In addition to the sources listed here, each student must consult no fewer five peer reviewed articles that address the subject discussed (see Latin American Politics & Society, Latin American Perspectives, Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin American Research Review, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, among other journals).*

*Revolutions*

Hellinger 11. Nationalism and Revolution in Mexico and Cuba 12. Democracy in Times of Revolution

Segrera, Francisco, “The Cuban Revolution,” *Latin American Perspectives*38. 2 (Mar 2011): 3.

Domínguez, Jorge, “Revolution and Its Aftermath in Cuba,” *Latin American Research Review*43. 2 (2008): 225-240.

***Role of Military***

Hellinger 7. Democratic Breakdown and Military Rule 8. State and Market in Latin America

*Intellectuals*

Panizza 3. The Organic Intellectuals of the Washington Consensus, 4. The Ascent of Free Market Economics

*Pacts*

Hellinger 9. Transitions and "Pact Democracies" in Brazil and the Southern Cone 10. Transitions of Party-Dominant Regimes in Mexico and Venezuela

*Democratization*

Panizza 5. The Promises of Democracy, 6. The Underside of Democracy

Schmitter, Philippe C, “Twenty Five Years, Fifteen Endings,” *Journal of Democracy*21. 1 (Jan 2010): 17-28.

Week Three **Colonial Legacies, Development, Mass Politics in the Twentieth Century**

*Response Paper #2 (hand in along with paper #1 with comments to instructor): How did Iberian Colonization affect either politics or economic development in Latin America prior to the 20th century? How well did Latin America modernize in the 20th century?*

Hellinger 3. Democratic and Autocratic Threads in Latin American History 4. Political Without Economic Independence, 5. Development and Dependency: Theory and Practice in Latin America 6. Populism, Development and Democracy in the Twentieth Century

Week Four

1. Workshop on the parts on an essay
2. Collaborative work- preparation for presentations

Spanakos “Writing for Political Science,” Spanakos.org

Groups of five: 1) introduction, argument, case selection, 2) literature review, 3) case #1, 4) case #2, 5) case # 3

Week Five Group Presentations

Week Six Feedback for peers, finish topics not covered by presentations

*Feedback- evaluate a) introduction, b) thesis, c) case selection, d) literature review, e) case analysis*

Week Seven **Par**ties and Institutions

*Response Paper #3 (to be handed in to peers): Why do parties and party systems matter?*

Hellinger 15. Parties and Electoral Politics 16. Institutions, Constitutions and Governance,

(K&P) Santos Vilarouca Institutions Governability (4)

(K&P) Power Ideology Elites (5)

Dietz, Henry A; Myers, David J. “From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Peru and Venezuela,” *Latin American Politics and Society*49. 2 (Summer 2007).

**Week Eight** Economic Policies and the Politics of Economics, Corruption

*Response Paper #4 (to be handed in with #3 and comments to instructor): What institutional inefficiencies exacerbate corruption and weaken economic development?*

(K&P) Baker, Ames, Renno Elections and Pork (6)

(K&P) Diniz Amaral, Kingstone, Krieckhaus (7)

Spanakos and Renno, “Speak Clearly and Carry a Big Stock of Dollars, *Comparative Political Studies* 42, 10, Oct 2009.

Hellinger 17. Corruption, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law

Taylor and Buranelli, “Ending up in Pizza,” *Latin American Politics and Society,* 49, 1, Spring 2007

Week Nine Crime, Violence, Relations with the US

*Draft of research paper due to colleagues*

*Feedback- evaluate a) introduction, b) thesis, c) case selection, d) literature review, e) case analysis*

*Response paper* #5 (to be handed in to peer): *Why are Latin American Cities so Dangerous?*

(K&P) Pereira (9) Security

Mark Ungar “The Privatization of Citizen Security in Latin America,” *Social Justice*34. 3/4 (2007): 20-37.

Hellinger 18. Democracy in Times of Globalization 19. Democracy, Intervention and American Foreign Policy

Delgado-Ramos, Gian Carlo; Romano, Silvina María, “Political-Economic Factors in U.S. Foreign Policy,” Latin American Perspectives38. 4 (Jul 2011).

Week Ten Social Policy, Race, Identity Politics,

*Response paper #6 (to be handed in with #5 and comments to instructor): Does Democracy Make Citizens Materially Better Off?*

(K&P) Melo (8) Social Policy

# [Simone R. Bohn](http://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu:2115/journals/latin_american_research_review/v046/46.1.bohn.html#back) Social Policy and Vote in Brazil Bolsa Família and the Shifts in Lula's Electoral Base. Latin American Research Review. 46 (1). 2011. Fábio Veras Soares, Rafael Perez Ribas, Rafael Guerreiro Osório. “Evaluating the Impact of Brazil’s Bolsa Família: Cash Transfer Programs in Comparative Perspective.” *Latin American Research Review.* 45 (2). 2010.

(K&P) Johnson (10) Race

Van Cott, Donna, “Latin America’s Indigenous Peoples,” *Journal of Democracy*18. 4 (Oct 2007): 127-141.

Week Eleven Values, Environment

*Final paper due, with draft, and feedback on partners’ papers*

(K&P) Almeida (11) Values, DaMatta

(K&P) Perlman (12) Favelas

Lagos, Marta, “Latin America’s Diversity of Views,” *Journal of Democracy*19. 1 (Jan 2008): 111-114,116-125.

Week Twelve New Politics and the New Left

Hellinger 13. Social Class and Politics in Latin America 14. "New" Social Movements, New Politics?

Panizza 7. Paradigm Lost: The Unravelling of the Washington Consensus   
Panizza 8. The Post-Washington Consensus and the Search for Alternatives

Baker, Andy and Greene, Kenneth F. “The Latin American’s Left Mandate,” *World Politics*63. 1 (Jan 2011).

(K&P) Hunter PT and the left (2)

(K&P) Hochstetler Civil Society (3)

Week Thirteen New Lefts and Populism

Panizza 9. Varieties of the Left (I): A Latin American Social Democracy? , 10. Varieties of the Left (II): The National Popular Alternative, 11. Conclusions

Postero, Nancy, “Morales’ MAS Government,” *Latin American Perspectives*, 37, 18, 2010

Postero, Nancy, “The Struggle to Create a Radical Democracy in Bolivia,” *Latin American Research Review,* 2010.

Spanakos*,* Anthony Peter*,* “New Wine, Old Bottles, Flamboyant Sommelier,” New Political *Science*, Volume 30, Number 4, December 2008 , pp. 521-544(24)