

POLI 332. Politics and Governments of Latin America

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 2-4 pm

Course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/latinamerica/>

Rules of the game

- Respect
- Attendance
- Participation
- UBC Connect and course blog:
<http://blogs.ubc.ca/latinamerica/>
- Late assignments
- Plagiarism / www.turnitin.com

Required Texts:

- **Domínguez, Jorge I. & Michael Shifter. 2013. *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America* (4th Edition). Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.**
- **Selected articles available through the UBC Library website.**
- **ONE** of the books for the book review
- **ONE** of the movies for the movie review

Objectives of the course

1. Main debates in comparative politics inspired by Latin American political development: colonialism, state capacity, bureaucratic-authoritarianism, corporatism, democratization, quality of democracy, indigenous social movements...
2. A long-term view of contemporary affairs: How does history affect the present?
3. Developing analytical and critical skills

Structure of the course

TWO AXES:

DEMOCRACY and DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Introduction: Democratic and Economic Challenges in Contemporary Latin America**

- 2. Origins of Political and Economic Inequality**
 1. Legacies of Colonialism
 2. State-building during the 19th century

- 3. 20th Century: From Oligarchical Republics to Nationalist-Populist Projects**
 1. Politics: The Military, Authoritarianism, and State Corporatism in Latin America
 2. Economy: Import Substitution Industrialization

IV. The Dual Transitions: Electoral Democracy and Free Markets

1. Economy: Neoliberalism and the Washington Consensus
2. Politics: Democratization

V. The Return of the Masses

1. Social Movements and Indigenous Politics
2. “Left Turns”

VI. Still a Common Regional Trajectory?

1. No Left-Turns and Security Concerns
2. The Quality of Democracy

VII. Conclusion

The New Political Economy of Latin America

Assignments & Evaluation

| ASSIGNMENT | DUE DATE |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Book Review: 30% | Due at the beginning of the lecture for which the book is assigned |
| Movie Review: 30% | Due at the beginning of the lecture for which the book is assigned |
| Final Exam: 40% | TBA during Exam Week |

Books

- Mahoney, James. 2010. ***Colonialism and Postcolonial Development: Spanish America in Comparative Perspective***
- Centeno, Miguel Ángel. 2002. ***Blood and Debt: War and Nation-State in Latin America***
- O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1988. ***Bureaucratic Authoritarianism. Argentina, 1966-1973, in Comparative Perspective***
- Galeano, Eduardo. 1973. ***Open Veins of Latin America***
- Hagopian, Frances and Scott Mainwaring. 2005. ***The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks***
- Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. ***Paths toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America***
- Yashar, Deborah. 2005. ***Contesting Citizenship in Latin America. The Rise of Indigenous Movements and the Post-Liberal Challenge.***
- Levitsky, Steven & Kenneth M. Roberts. 2011. ***The Resurgence of the Latin American Left***
- Levitsky, Steven & Lucan Way. 2010. ***Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War***
- Schneider, Ben Ross. 2013. ***Hierarchical Capitalism in Latin America: Business, Labor, and the Challenges of Equitable Development.***

Instructions for Book Review

1. What is the author's main point? What is the question that she is trying to answer?
2. Why is this argument important? How is it improving our existing knowledge in the topic?
3. What is the answer that the author gives to her research question?
4. Is the answer convincing? What kind of evidence does the author use to back up her claims?
5. Which are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument? Is the argument overlooking important aspects of the problem?

Movies

- Joffé, Roland (dir.), *The Mission*
- Herzog, Werner (dir.), *Fitzcarraldo*
- Gutiérrez Alea, Tomás (dir.), *Memories from Underdevelopment*
- Salles, Walter (dir.), *The Motorcycle Diaries*
- Puenzo, Luis (dir.), *The Official Story*
- Guzmán, Patricio (dir.), *Nostalgia de la Luz*
- Bollaín, Icíar (dir.), *Even the Rain*
- Stone, Oliver (dir.), *South of the Border*
- Llosa, Claudia (dir.), *The Milk of Sorrow*
- Fukunaga, Cary (dir.), *Sin Nombre*

Instructions for Movie Review

1. A brief summary of the plot of the movie.
2. What is the socio-political problematic that the movie is about? In other words, what are the larger socio-political factors underpinning the individual experiences of the characters?
3. What is the context in which the story unfolds? What is happening in the country at the time? How do you think that this affects the characters' decisions and actions? How are there political, economic, social, ideological, religious, or cultural factors shaping power relations, defining the position of the characters in their societies, and affecting their fates?

Final Exam

- REVIEW
- Short Questions section (10%)
- 3 Essay Questions (30%)

BREAK

Plan of the lecture

- General Patterns and Regional Variation
- A Democratic Latin America. So what?
 - Human Development
 - Economic Growth
 - Inequality
 - Corruption
 - Security

 - What does this mean for democracy?
What to expect from it?

In this course, we will focus on two issues: the evolution of **democratic governance** and **economic development**.

We start by identifying a number of questions about:

- General patterns in the region
- Variation within the region

Is Latin America Democratic?

A Democratic Latin America

- Every Latin American president (except for Cuba) has been elected into office.
- No longer a region of dictatorships as in most of the 20th century, now it is a region of electoral democracies.
- What makes a country democratic?
- Why would we want to support democracy?
- What should people expect democracy to achieve?
- What has it achieved so far in Latin America?

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2012

GDP per capita, PPP (2012)

ECONOMIC
GROWTH

POLITICAL INEQUALITY

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

SECURITY

Homicides

DEMOCRACY: Support

DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction

DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction

Conclusions: Economic Development

- Important improvements in the Human Development Index
- Variation in economic development:
 - Richer countries (Southern Cone, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico)
 - Poorer countries (Central America, Paraguay, Bolivia)
- Variation in recent economic growth:
 - Successful cases: Peru
 - Unsuccessful cases: Mexico

Conclusions: Governance

Three regional problems:

- ***Inequality***: The most unequal region in the world.
 - Political Inequality: Few people feel that the country is being governed for everyone's benefit. This seems to be changing in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Uruguay.
 - High levels of political inequality are associated with high levels of economic Inequality (Chile, Peru, Brazil, Colombia) or corruption (Mexico, Honduras, Paraguay)
- ***Corruption*** (although most of the world seems to be quite corrupt)
- ***Insecurity***: seems to be exceptionally high for the region's level of HDI, income, etc.
 - Not very clear why certain countries are much more than others: very different kinds of violence (civil war, paramilitary groups, mafias, gangs).
 - It also seems to be one of the biggest sources of dissatisfaction: Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, México, Guatemala

Conclusions: Democracy

- Electoral democracy is well-established in the region
 - High(-ish) support: 56%
 - KEY: Countries that are doing relatively well support a lot (Chile, Uruguay, Argentina... or that experienced brutal military dictatorships?); BUT ALSO countries where the meaning of democracy is being hotly contested (Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador)
 - Low satisfaction: 40% (Inequality, Corruption, Insecurity, Poverty)
 - What can be the consequences of these gaps in expectations?
 - Churchillian Democracy?
 - A return to old-style authoritarianism (military juntas, party-states, etc.?)
 - Support for authoritarian practices while maintaining regular elections (competitive authoritarianism, delegative democracies, illiberal democracies, etc.)?