

GRINNELL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Spring 2005
POL 261.01
State and Society in Latin America

Professor Willis
Carnegie 103, x4875
Office Hours:
TWTh 2:15-4:05
and by appointment

Although great diversity exists among the nations of Latin America, they share a common set of dilemmas and experiences. All these countries face the dilemma of pursuing economic development and political stability in a context of chronic political and economic crisis. Few governments in the region have been able to establish a stable political order that can meet the needs of the wider society. Why has this been the case? We will address this question by considering the influence of both domestic (i.e., elite and non-elite actors and politically powerful institutions) and international (i.e., transnational actors and the United States) factors. We will examine these influences in the context of specific case studies. Our analysis will be informed by various social scientific approaches that have been applied in the study of Latin American politics.

Required Texts

Vanden, H. and Prevost, G. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*
Smith, P. *The Talons of the Eagle*

I strongly recommend that you follow (online or on paper) the *New York Times* (or some other major news source) on a daily basis so that you can follow current events in Latin America over the course of the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Two Papers	30%
Class participation	20%
Midterm	25%
Final exam	25%

Exam Dates and Material Covered

Midterm Exam	March 17	Sections I-IX
Final Exam	May 20	Sections X-XI

Due Dates for Papers

Paper 1	To Be Arranged
Paper 2	To Be Arranged

Course Policies

Class Participation and Attendance

Throughout the semester you will be encouraged to refine and enlarge your conceptual skills by learning how to read and to discuss texts for major and minor themes, internal logic, and the implications of arguments. Class discussion is an essential component of the requirements for this course. Because the progress and quality of discussion depends as much on you as it does on me, it is imperative that you prepare reading assignments on the day they are due.

Attendance will be taken daily. **Students who have more than four unexcused absences will receive an F for the participation portion their grade.** You are also expected to participate in class discussions on a regular basis. I expect you to be prepared to answer questions based on the reading assignment. You should notify me before class if you do not wish to participate in a specific discussion. You may exercise this option twice during the semester.

Late Papers and Missed Exams

Students are expected to take all exams and quizzes as scheduled and submit written assignments when they are due. Papers submitted after the due date will be assessed a penalty of one-half a letter grade a day until received. No paper will be accepted more than one week after the deadline.

Pass/Fail Students

Students taking this course pass/fail are expected to attend class regularly and meet all course requirements. Failure to meet any of these requirements (including attendance) to my satisfaction will result in a failing grade for the course.

Students with Special Needs

I encourage students with documented disabilities, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, psychiatric disabilities to discuss with me, after class or during my office hours, appropriate accommodations. You will also need to provide documentation of your disability to the Associate Dean and Director of Academic Advising, Joyce Stern, located in the lower level of the Forum (x3702).

Statement on Academic Honesty

Please keep in mind that I expect the highest level of integrity on the part of Grinnell students who enroll in my courses. Before beginning work on your papers or take-home exams, I recommend that you visit the page on citation posted by the Writing Lab. You are permitted to take your take-home exam to the Writing Lab though you should not collaborate with other students when completing them. If you have any questions or uncertainties about my expectations, please ask me directly. I abide by the College's stated policy on academic honesty and will submit all suspected cases of academic dishonesty directly to the Committee on Academic Standing.

Assigned Readings and Topics*

I The Study of Latin American Politics: Course Introduction

- 1/25 Vanden and Prevost, *Politics of Latin America*, “Introduction: Notes on Studying Latin America” and Chapter 1 “An Introduction to Latin America (As It Is)”

II Colonial Legacies and the Struggle for Democracy

- 1/27 Vanden and Prevost, *Politics of Latin America*, Chapter 2 “Early History” and Chapter 3, “Republics and the Struggle to Empower the People”

III The “Other” Americans: Race, Ethnicity and Politics

- 2/1 Vanden and Prevost, *Politics of Latin America*, Chapter 4 “The Other Americans”

Yashar, D. “Indigenous Protest and Democracy in Latin America,” in *Constructing Democratic Governance: Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s*

Kearney, M. and Varese, S. “Latin America’s Indigenous Peoples: Changing Identities and Forms of Resistance,” in *Capital, Power, and Inequality*

- 2/3 NACLA, “The Social Origins of Race” *Blackboard*

Film: Mirror of the Heart: Race and Identity

IV Society, Gender and Politics

- 2/8 Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 5, “Society, Gender and Political Culture”

Safa, H. and Flora, C. “Production, Reproduction, and the Polity: Women’s Strategic and Practical Gender Issues,” in *Americas: New Interpretative Essays*

Navarro, M. and Bourque, S. “Fault Lines of Democratic Governance: A Gender Perspective,” in *Fault Lines of Democracy in Post-Transition Latin America*

V Religion and Politics

- 2/10 Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 6, “Religion in Latin America”

Levine, D. “Liberation Theology, Base Communities, and the Pattern of Change in Latin America,” in *Popular Voices in Latin American Catholicism*

2/15 Stoll, D. *Is Latin America Turning Protestant?: The Politics of Evangelical Growth*, Chapter 1 (handout)

Film: *Miracles Are Not Enough*

VI Theories of Change in Latin America

A. Modernization Theory and Cultural Explanations of Change

2/17 Wiarda, H. "Toward a Framework for the Study of Political Change in the Iberic Tradition: The Corporative Model," *World Politics* 25, 2 (1973): 206-235 (JSTOR)

Harrison, L. "Underdevelopment is a State of Mind" in *Underdevelopment is a State of Mind*

B. The Dependency Perspective on Economic and Political Change

2/22- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7, "The Political Economy of Latin America"
2/24

Cardoso, E. and Helwege, A. "Import Substitution Industrialization" in *Latin America's Economy*

Valenzuela, A. and Valenzuela, S. "Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment," *Comparative Politics* July 1978, 10 (4): 535-552 (JSTOR)

VII Neoliberal Reform and Democracy: The "End" of Ideology

3/1 Edwards, S. "The Emergence of a New Latin American Consensus," in *Crisis and Reform in Latin America*, pp. 43-66

Remmer, K. "Democracy and Economic Crisis: The Latin American Experience," *World Politics*, April 1990, 42 (3): 315-335 (JSTOR)

Geddes, B. "The Politics of Economic Liberalization," *Latin American Research Review*, 1995, 30 (2): 194-214

VIII Political Institutions and Democratization

3/3 Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, "Politics, Power, Institutions, and Actors"

Coppedge, M. "The Evolution of Latin American Party Systems," in *Politics, Society, and Democracy: Latin America*

3/8 O'Donnell, G. "Delegative Democracy," in *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 5, 1, pp. 55-69 (Project Muse)

UNDP, *Democracy in Latin America: Toward's a Citizen's Democracy*

IX Revolutions and Revolutionary Regimes

3/15 Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 9 "Revolution in Latin America"

Crahan, M. and Smith, P. "The State of Revolution," in *Americas: New Interpretive Essays*

3/17 Mid-Term Examination

SPRING BREAK 3/18-4/4

X Country Studies: Continuity or Change?

4/5- *Mexico*

4/7

Hamilton, N. "Mexico" in Vanden and Prevost

Lawson, C. "Mexico at Midterm: Democracy and Divided Government," *Journal of Democracy* (January 2004) (Project Muse)

Additional Reading Assignment on *Blackboard*

4/12- *Cuba*

4/14

Prevost, G. "Cuba" in Vanden and Prevost

Additional Reading Assignment on *Blackboard*

4/19 *Nicaragua*

Prevost, G. and Vanden, H. "Nicaragua" in Vanden and Prevost

Spalding, Rose J., "Nicaragua: Politics, Poverty, and Polarization," in *Constructing Democratic Governance: Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean in the 1990s*

4/21 *Chile*

Scully, Timothy. "Chile: The Political Underpinnings of Economic Liberalization," in *Constructing Democratic Governance: South America in the 1990s*

Hojman, D. E. "Poverty and Inequality in Chile: Are Democratic Politics and Neoliberal Economics Good for You?" *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, (1996) 38 (2-3): 73

4/26 ***Argentina***

Vacs, A. "Argentina" in Vanden and Prevost

The Economist, Country Survey: Argentina

4/28 ***Brazil***

5/3

Chafee, W. "Brazil" in Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 16

The Economist, Country Survey: Brazil

Additional Reading Assignment on *Blackboard*

XI US-Latin American Relations: Partners in Conflict

5/5- Smith, P. *Talons of the Eagle* (chapters to be assigned)

5/12

Final Exam Friday, May 20

****All readings must be completed on the assigned date. I reserve the right to make changes in course requirements and reading assignments.**