



CPO 3304-Politics of Latin America

Fall 2019

DM 150

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2.00-2.50 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Orçun Selçuk

Department: Politics and International Relations

Office Location: SIPA 213 Graduate Lounge (Please ring the bell)

Office Hours: Monday 3pm-5pm and by appointment

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NB: This syllabus and schedule are subject to change at any time. If changes occur, the syllabus will be changed on Blackboard and announcements will be made in class.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course provides an introduction to politics of Latin America at the undergraduate level. It is designed for students who have limited or no familiarity with the region. The proximate goal of the course is to learn about the main historical and contemporary themes in the region. It also aims to provide in-depth knowledge of certain countries in Central and South America. By the end of the course, students will understand the complex nature of Latin America with a focus on democratic governance. To achieve that, I organized the course in two parts. In the first part, we will cover major themes in Latin American Politics such as development, inequality, populism, military rule, and democratization. Then, we will apply our thematic knowledge to five case studies of your choice. Throughout the semester, you will also conduct a narrow area of research on a Latin American country.

Grades

Participation (20%)

Throughout the semester, you will take part in several individual and group exercises. If you are not present in class, obviously you will not be able to participate them. While in class, I expect you to contribute to the discussions by engaging with your peers and myself. If you come to class prepared and give your full attention to our class activities, you should all get full credit very easily. I will post your weekly participation grade on Canvas.

Exam I (20%)

From 2.00 to 2.50 p.m. on September 24, 2018.

The first exam will ask you to identify key terms and answer four short answer prompts. The exam will take place during our class time.

Exam II (30%)

By 11.59 p.m. on October 28, 2018.

The second exam will ask you to answer two essay questions. For this exam, I will ask you to form groups and submit a possible list of questions. From your list, I will pick three essay prompts and ask you to answer two of them. In the take-home format, you will submit your responses via Turnitin.

Final Paper: (30%)

First draft (5%) due by 2.00 p.m. on October 15, 2018.

Second draft (5%) due by 2.00 p.m. on November 17, 2018.

Peer-review (5%) due by 2.00 p.m. on November 19, 2018.

Final draft due (15%) by 7.00 p.m. on December 3, 2018.

For the final paper, you need to choose a specific concept or theme from our syllabus and apply it to a country in Latin America. I highly suggest you start thinking about the paper early and consult me on possible paper topics through email or during my office hours. For the paper, you will go through a multi-draft writing process. That means, you will submit two drafts before submitting the final version. In this process, you will receive feedback from me as well as your peers. The final version will be within the range of 2000 words. For a detailed assignment sheet, please refer to our Canvas page.

Grading Scale

Below 60.00 = F	76.00 to 79.99 = C+	87.00 to 89.99 = B+
60.00 to 69.99 = D	80.00 to 82.99 = B-	90.00 to 92.99 = A-
70.00 to 75.99 = C	83.00 to 86.99 = B	93.00 to 100.00 = A

Late Submissions

Should you decide to submit a major assignment late, I will deduct ten points per day from your final score. In case of emergency, with proper documentation, I will not deduct any points. I also reserve the right to evaluate cases on an *ad hoc* basis. The key is communicating with me and being honest.

Objection Policy

If you believe that the grade you received from an exam or paper is inappropriate, you need to provide a written statement to me. I will consider your appeal and make a final decision.

Extra Credit Policy

Finally, there is a chance for an extra credit assignment which is worth 2 percent of your overall grade. You need to write a 2-page paper on one of the following movies and documentaries below from the perspective of our class discussions and readings. In other words, I am not expecting a summary but an informed analysis and personal reflection. The paper is due by December 5, 2018 at 7.00 pm. You will submit your paper via Turnitin. You can find further instructions on Canvas.

- The Official Story (1985)
- Machuca (2004)
- Sin Nombre (2009)
- Even the Rain (2010)
- No (2012)
- Salvador Allende (2004)
- Our Brand is Crisis (2005)
- Cocalero (2007)
- Even the Rain (2010)
- The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (2003)
- South of the Border (2009)
- City of God (2002)
- The Clan (2015)
- The Liberator (2013)
- The Fall of Fujimori (2005)
- State of Fear (2005)
- Narcos (2015)
- The Death of Jaime Roldós (2013)
- No (2012)
- Kingdom of Shadows (2015)
- Manda Bala (2007)
- The Judge and the General (2008)
- Finding Oscar (2016)

Academic Dishonesty

When you started college, you became a part of a learning community. Going to college is an important experience in one's life. Writing and rhetoric convey power to you and with this power, you have a responsibility to our community. To put it in simple terms, I ask that you be honest with yourself and others. If you find something online that you would like to use in your own work, you need to cite it even if you paraphrase. You owe it to the author who inspired your writing and to those that will read your work. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct and it may result in your expulsion from FIU. We all would like to avoid such unpleasant experience. For more information, please review [FIU's policy](#) of academic integrity.

Special Accommodations

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, notify the Disability Resource Center (GC 190, 348-3532) and me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

Class Rules and Norms

This class is scheduled from 2.00 p.m. until 2.50 p.m. We will begin promptly and will generally go for the entire 50 minutes. I expect you to be in your seats and ready to begin at 2.00 p.m., and to give me your undivided attention. If you need to leave early for a reason, make sure you notify me about your excuse.

Laptops, tablet computers, and smart phones are allowed in this class as long as they are used for learning purposes. Feel free to take notes or google any name/term which is mentioned in class that you might not be familiar with. Please do not check your emails and social media sites during the class.

Readings

- Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America. Democracy at Last? 2nd Edition*, Routledge. ISBN: 0415827612.
- More readings are available on our course's Canvas site (<http://online.fiu.edu/login>).
- If you feel you need an additional source to succeed in this course, I would also recommend the following textbooks: Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith, James N. Green, *Modern Latin America 8th edition*, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 0199929238; Harvey F. Kline, Christine J. Wade, Howard J. Wiarda, *Latin American Politics and Development 9th Edition*, Routledge, ISBN: 0813350506.

Part I-Main Themes of Latin American Politics

August 20, 2018-First Day

- Getting to know each other.
- Introducing our Canvas page.

August 22 and 24-Comparative Study of Latin America

- Going over the syllabus.
- Hellinger, Introductory Chapter.

August 27, 29, and 31-Conceptions of Democracy

- Hellinger, Chapter 1.

September 3, 5, and 7-Inequality in Latin American Politics

- Hellinger, Chapter 2.

September 10, 12, and 14-Historical Roots

- Hellinger, Chapters 3 and 4.

September 17 and 19-A New Century

- Hellinger Chapter 5.

September 21-Exam I Review

- No reading.

EXAM I- September 24, 2018

2.00-2.50 p.m.

September 26 and 28-Democratic Breakdown and Military Rule

- Hellinger, Chapter 7.

October 1, 3, and 5-Democratic Transition

- Hellinger, Chapters 8 and 9.

October 8, 10, and 12-Neoliberalism

- Hellinger, Chapter 6.

FIRST DRAFT OF THE PAPER DUE-October 15, 2018

2.00 p.m.

October 15 and 17-Political Parties

- Hellinger, Chapter 12.

October 19, 22, and 24-Challenges to Democracy

- Hellinger Chapters 13 and 14.

October 26-Exam II Review

- Student-generated essay questions in groups

EXAM II DUE-October 28, 2018

11.59 p.m.

Part II-Case Studies

During the first week of class, you will vote on which five countries we should cover. In the default version of the course, I included Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Brazil, and Chile. If you decide to cover other countries, I will update the syllabus accordingly.

October 29, 31, and November 2-Mexico/Cuba/Costa Rica

- Skidmore, Smith, Green, “Mexico: The Taming of a Revolution.”
- Flores-Macías, “Latin America’s New Turbulence: Mexico’s Stalled Reforms.”
- Recent news article on Mexico, TBA.

November 5, 7, and 9-Nicaragua/El Salvador/Honduras

- Millett, “Nicaragua: An Uncertain Future.”
- Thaler, “Nicaragua: A Return to Caudillismo.”
- Recent news article on Nicaragua, TBA.

November 12, 14, and 16-Venezuela/Colombia/Ecuador

- Myers, “Venezuela: Political Decay amid the Struggle for Regime Legitimacy.”
- Ellner, “Venezuela's Fragile Revolution: From Chávez to Maduro.”
- Recent news article on Venezuela, TBA.

FIRST DRAFT OF THE PAPER DUE-November 17, 2018

2.00 p.m.

PEER-REVIEW DUE-November 19, 2018

2.00 p.m.

November 19, 21, and 23-Brazil/Argentina/Peru

- O’Neil, Fields, and Share, “Brazil.”
- Mello and Spektor, “Brazil: The Costs of Multiparty Presidentialism.”
- Recent news article on Brazil, TBA.

November 26, 28, and 30-Chile/Uruguay/Paraguay

- Siavelis, “From Dictatorship to Democracy and Back”
- Luna, “Delegative Democracy Revisited: Chile’s Crisis of Representation.”
- Recent news article on Chile, TBA.

FINAL DRAFT OF THE PAPER DUE-December 3, 2018

7.00 p.m.

EXTRA CREDIT DUE-December 5, 2018

7.00 p.m.