Political Science 540
Latin American Government and Politics
Winter 2000
Tuesday/Thursday 5:00-7:18

Elizabeth Brads
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Phone:
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-5:00; Wednesday 4:00-6:00; Thursday 4:00-5:00; by appointment (I will also be available after class on most evenings.)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The region of Latin America was one of the primary participants in what has been called the Third Wave of democratization. Most governments in Latin America can now, by some definitions, be called democracies. But how are these democracies doing? This class will focus on the health and stability of democracy in Latin America. We will examine several of the major debates about the possible difficulties or fault lines for democracy in Latin America. We will also examine these issues within the context of particular countries. We will seek to answer several important questions about democratic government in Latin America raised by the textbook and the other course readings, what is a democracy? Is stable democracy attainable in Latin America? Does the political culture of Latin America make democracy inherently unstable? Or can democratic political institutions overcome culture biases? Do the political institutions chosen by Latin American politicians make democracy more unstable? How problematic is the military for democracy in Latin America? How stable can democracies be without the rule of law? Can democratic governments coexist with neoliberal economic reforms? Is it necessary to "deepen democracy"—? Or can I-badI? democracies be stable?

READINGS:

There is one required textbook for this class which is available at SBX:


There is a required course packet available for purchase at CopEz in Bricker Hall.

There is one optional textbook available at SBX. This book provides excellent background material and could be useful in writing papers for this class:

Skidmore and Smith. Modern Latin America. 4th edition

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
Grades will be calculated based on the following assignments:

Map Quiz
Presentation (optional)
Participation
Final Paper
Final Exam

5%
10%
10% (2Q% if no presentation)
40%
35%

Map quiz -- There will be a map quiz on January 25 at the beginning of class. All of the countries and capitals of Latin America are fair game for this quiz.

In-class presentation (optional) -- Each student has the option of making one in-class presentation during the quarter. This is a "mini-lecture" on a topic of your choice (discussed with me). It can be a current issue or event in Latin America in which you are particularly interested or a critique of one of the assigned readings (or of my comments or lecture). You may also consider presenting the thesis of your research paper for class discussion and critique.

Presentations should be brief--S minutes maximum for your prepared materials. However, presentations should also be designed to elicit comments and questions from the class. The better discussion you generate, the better job you've done. I will distribute a sign-up sheet for presentation times in the next week.

Participation -- Student participation is essential to the success of this course. Students are expected to have completed assigned readings before coming to class and to bring to class questions or comments related to those materials. As mentioned above, we will be addressing several debates concerning democracy in Latin America. Students will probably not agree with everything that they read. There will be some lecture in this class, but most of the class will focus on discussion and debate around the assigned readings. (I reserve the right to add in-class writing assignments as part of the participation grade if students need encouragement to participate or complete assigned readings.)

Research PaDer -- Students will complete an 8-10 page research paper for this class. This paper should focus on democracy in Latin America. For this paper each student should choose one country and discuss democracy as it relates to the chosen country. Students could evaluate the greatest problem for democracy, evaluate democratic consolidation, evaluate democratic stability or choose another topic related to democracy. This should be a position paper not a description paper. There should be a clear thesis statement and a clear argument that you are supporting with evidence throughout your paper. Paper topics are due in class on January 27 (5 points). A list of
resources for your paper is due on February 17 (5 points). The final draft of your paper is due at the beginning of class March 7. Notice, you cannot get an A on your paper if you do not hand in the topic and source list. The instructor is willing to look over rough drafts of papers at least one week before the final due date. Any parts of the paper assignment may be handed in early.

Final Exam -- Tuesday March 14 5:30 p.m. -- identification, possible essay question -- a list of identification terms will be provided later in the quarter

Academic Honesty:

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. Penalties can include failing this class and/or expulsion from the university.

It is important to understand what plagiarism consists of, so that you will not jeopardize your college career. It can take several forms. The most obvious is a word-for-word copying of someone else's work, in whole or in part, without acknowledgement, whether that work be a magazine article, a portion of a book, a newspaper, etc. All such verbatim use must be acknowledged by (1) enclosing all such copied portions in quotation marks, and (2) giving the original source either in the body of your essay or in a footnote.

A second form of plagiarism if the unacknowledged paraphrasing of the structure and language of another's work. Changing a few words of someone else's composition, omitting a few sentences, or changing their order does not constitute original composition, and therefore can be given no credit. If such borrowing is ever necessary, the source must be acknowledged in the main text and/or footnotes.

Still another form of plagiarism is more difficult to define. It consists of writing a paper based solely on the ideas of another. Even though the language is not the same, if the thinking is not clearly your own, then you have committed plagiarism.

In addition, a paper made up mainly of quotes is also not considered sufficiently original. You must put the ideas in your own words.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and for seeking available assistance, in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Graduating Seniors:

If you are graduating at the end of this quarter, please let me know that you are a graduating senior. Graduating seniors must take the final exam early and may have a different deadline for their paper.
BACKGROUND SOURCES:


TOPICS:

Thursday, January 5th - Introduction -- Setting up the debates

Peeler's Propositions - Peeler "Conclusion"

Suggested Reading:


Tuesday, January 11th - Defining Democracy

Assigned Reading:

Suggested Reading:


Thursday, January 13th - Democratic Stability and Consolidation


Thursday, January 20th - Political Culture Case Study -- Costa Rica

Assigned Readings:

Suggested Readings:

Tuesday, January 25th - Previous Experience with Democracy I Elites Assigned Reading:
Peeler Ch 2 "Early Democracies: Managing Participation" Suggested Reading:

Higley, John and Richard Gunther. Ed. Elites and Democratic Consolidation in Latin America and Southern Europe. Cambridge:
Thursday, January 27 -- Transitions to Democracy

Assigned Reading: Peeler Ch 3 "Later Democracies: Patterns of Regime Change"
BEGIN IN-CLASS ACTIVITY

Suggested Reading:


Tuesday, February 1st Transitions to Democracy Case Study -- Mexico

Assigned Reading: Peeler Chapter 4 (105-108; 113-124)
IN CLASS ACTIVITY

Suggested Reading:


"Mexico's New Politics" special section in Journal of Democracy. October 1997 Vol 8 #4

Thursday, February 3rd - Political Institutions -- Presidentialism

Assigned Readings: Peeler Ch 6 "The Institutionalization of Democracy" (181-185)
Shugart, Matthew, and Scott Mainwaring. "Presidentialism

Suggested Readings:


Tuesday, February 8~ -- Presidentialism Case Study -- Brazil


Suggested Readings:


Thursday, February 10th -- Political Institutions -- Party Systems

Assigned Reading: Peeler Ch 6 "The Institutionalization of Democracy" (165-181)

Suggested Reading:


Tuesday, February 15~ - Party Systems Case Study -- Venezuela

Suggested Reading:


Thursday, February 17th - Rule of Law I Judicial Institutions

Assigned Reading:  

Suggested Reading:  

Hammergren, Linn. "Fifteen Years of Judicial Reform in Latin America: where We Are and why We Haven't Made More Progress" USAID Globel Center for Democracy and Governance


Tuesday, February 22nd Rule of Law Case Study -- Colombia VIDEO - Colombia

Hoskin, Gary and Gabriel Murillo. "Can Colombia Cope?"  
*Journal of Democracy*. January 1999 Vol 10 #1


Assigned Reading:
Suggested Reading:


Thursday, February 24~ --- Military and Human Rights

Assigned Reading:

Suggested Reading:


Tuesday, February 29~ - Argentina

VIDEO - Argentina


Suggested readings:


Thursday, March 2nd -- Economic Reforms / Neoliberal Economics

Assigned Readings: Peeler Ch 5 "Economy, Society and Democracy"

Suggested Reading:


Viability" In The Joseph Tuichin Ed.


Tuesday, March 7th - Neoliberal Reform Case Study -- Central Andes

Assigned Reading:

Suggested Reading:
Conaghan, Catherine. "Capitalists, Technocrats and Politicians: Economic Policy Making and Democracy in the Central Andes" in Issues in


Thursday, March 9- Deepening Democracy - Wrap Up

Assigned Reading: Peeler "Conclusion"
Diamond, Larry. "Democracy in Latin America: Degrees, Illusions and Directions for Consolidation"

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday March 14, 5:30 p.m.