

POLS 466: Latin American Politics

Fall 2007

TTh 11:00 am to 12:15 pm, 1004 Faner Hall

Prof. Frederick Solt

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Office Hours: TTh 9:30-10:30 am, 1:30-3:30 pm

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Overview

This course is an introduction to the politics and government of the countries of Latin America. We will focus on the struggle for democracy in the region, examining democratic breakdowns, transitions to democracy, the impact of varying democratic institutions, continuing authoritarian legacies, and the problem of clientelism. We will pay particular attention to the experiences of four major countries in the region: Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela.

By the end of the course, you will:

1. Gain a familiarity with the politics of major Latin American countries,
2. Develop a thorough understanding of political science theories of dictatorship and democracy in Latin America,
3. Gain experience applying political science theories to understand politics in a Latin American country of your choice,
4. Develop your ability to convey your research findings in writing.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

Attendance & Class Participation	20%
Map Quiz	6%
Reaction Papers	24% (3 papers, 8% each)
Final Paper	30%

Attendance & Class Participation

To learn, you have to show up, so I will take attendance each time we meet. If you miss more than two classes, I will deduct one point for each additional class you miss. Beyond showing up, most people learn best when they are actively engaged with the material. For this reason, you must complete all reading assignments and be ready to share your thoughts about them with your classmates. You should prepare to discuss the following questions about the reading for each class:

- What is the author trying to explain?
- What is the explanation?
- What evidence does the author provide in support of this explanation?
- Do you find the author's argument convincing?
- How does the reading relate to other papers we've read?

Map Quiz

A basic knowledge of the geography of Latin America will help you in your study of the region. A map quiz asking you to label a blank map with the names of selected countries and capital cities will be given on September 6. Maps to study are available from the course webpage on [Blackboard](#). *You must score at least a C on the map quiz to pass the course;* you will have one opportunity to retake the quiz if necessary.

Reaction Papers

In this course, we will cover five major themes in the study of Latin American politics. For **three** of the five themes, you will write a 4-5 page reaction paper on the readings, which will address all of the questions for discussion listed above but place particular emphasis on relating the readings to each other. These papers will be due in class the third time we meet on the theme.

Final Paper

The major project in this 400-level class is a 10-15 page research paper. In your paper, you will address one or more of the major themes of this class in a Latin American country of your choice. The paper will therefore combine course material with research material gathered from other sources to provide some sort of argument about the politics of your chosen country. More information on the paper will be distributed in class.

Readings

There are no required books for this class; all of the readings are available online at the links below or, if starred, from the course page on [Blackboard](#). You should print out the readings and bring them to class with you on the days they are assigned.

Boylan, Delia M. 2001. "Democratization and Institutional Change in Mexico: The Logic of Partial Insulation" *Comparative Political Studies* 34(3):3-29

Cheibub Figueiredo, Argelina and Fernando Limongi. 2000. "Presidential Power, Legislative Organization, and Party Behavior in Brazil." *Comparative Politics* 32(2):151-170.

García-Guadilla, María Pilar and Carlos Pérez. 2002. "Democracy, Decentralization, and Clientelism: New Relationships and Old Practices." *Latin American Perspectives* 29(5):90-109.

Hagopian, Frances. 1990. "‘Democracy by Undemocratic Means’? Elites, Political Pacts, and Regime Transition in Brazil." *Comparative Political Studies* 23(2):147-169.

Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. 1997. "The Paradoxes of Contemporary Democracy: Formal, Participatory, and Social Dimensions." *Comparative Politics* 29(3):323-42.

Hunter, Wendy. 1995. "Politicians Against Soldiers: Contesting the Military in Postauthoritarian Brazil." *Comparative Politics* 27(4):425-443.

Inglehart, Ronald, and Marita Carballo. "Does Latin America Exist? (And Is There a Confucian Culture?): A Global Analysis of Cross-Cultural Differences." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(1):34-47.

Karl, Terry Lynn. 1987. "Petroleum and Political Pacts: The Transition to Democracy in Venezuela." *Latin American Research Review* 22(1): 63-94.

*Linz, Juan J. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1):51-69.

Loveman, Brian. 1994. "'Protected Democracies' and Military Guardianship: Political Transitions in Latin America, 1978-1993." *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*. 36(2):105-189.

*Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2):198-228.

Mauceri, Philip. 1995. "State Reform, Coalitions, and the Neoliberal *Autogolpe* in Peru" *Latin American Research Review* 30(1):7-37.

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1978. "Reflections on the Patterns of Change in the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian State." *Latin American Research Review* 13(1):3-38.

*O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1994. "Delegative Democracy." *Journal of Democracy* 5(1):55-69.

Pion-Berlin, David and Craig Arceneaux. 1998. "Tipping the Civil-Military Balance: Institutions and Human Rights Policy in Democratic Argentina and Chile." *Comparative Political Studies* 31(5):633-661.

Posner, Paul W. 1999. "Popular Representation and Political Dissatisfaction in Chile's New Democracy." *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 41(1):v+59-85 [note: ignore first page].

*Przeworski, Adam, et al. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 13-54.

Ruhl, J. Mark. 2004. "Curbing Central America's Militaries." *Journal of Democracy* 15(3):137-151.

*Solt, Frederick. 2003. *Explaining the Quality of New Democracies: Actors, Institutions, and Socioeconomic Structure in Mexico's States*. Ph.D. dissertation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Solt, Frederick. 2004. "Electoral Competition, Legislative Pluralism, and Institutional Development: Evidence from Mexico's States." *Latin American Research Review* 39(1): 155-167.

Wallerstein, Michael. 1980. "The Collapse of Democracy in Brazil: Its Economic Determinants," *Latin American Research Review* 15(3):3-40.

Weyland, Kurt. 1996. "Obstacles to Social Reform in Brazil's New Democracy." *Comparative Politics* 29(1):1-22.

*Valenzuela, Arturo. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Pp. 91-150.

*Van Evera, Stephen. 1997. *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pp. 7-48.

Class Schedule

Weeks 1 & 2	Overview & Fundamentals
Tuesday, Aug 21	Overview
Thursday, Aug 23	Theories, Hypotheses, and Variables <i>Reading: *Van Evera (1997)</i>
Tuesday, Aug 28	Inglehart and Carballo (1997)
Thursday, Aug 30	No class.
Weeks 3 & 4	Democratic Breakdowns
Tuesday, Sept 4	Bureaucratic Authoritarianism <i>Reading: O'Donnell (1978)</i>
Thursday, Sept 6	Democratic Breakdown in Brazil <i>Reading: Wallerstein (1980)</i>
	Map Quiz
Tuesday, Sept 11	Democratic Breakdown in Chile <i>Reading: *Valenzuela (1978)</i>
Thursday, Sept 13	Democratic Breakdown in Peru <i>Reading: Mauceri (1995)</i>
Weeks 5 & 6	Return to Democracy
Tuesday, Sept 18	Defining Democratization <i>Reading: *Przeworski, et al. (2000)</i>
Thursday, Sept 20	Democratization in Mexico <i>Reading: *Solt (2003), pp. 105-130</i>
Tuesday, Sept 25	Democratization in Venezuela <i>Reading: Karl (1987)</i>
Thursday, Sept 27	Democratization in Brazil <i>Reading: Hagopian (1990)</i>
Weeks 7 & 8	Presidents and Legislatures
Tuesday, Oct 2	Perilous Presidentialism <i>Reading: *Linz (1990)</i>
Thursday, Oct 4	What Perils, Exactly? <i>Reading: *Mainwaring (1993)</i>
Tuesday, Oct 9	Presidentialism in Mexico <i>Reading: Solt (2004)</i>
Thursday, Oct 11	Presidentialism in Brazil <i>Reading: Cheibub Figueiredo and Limongi (2000)</i>

Weeks 9, 10, & 11	Authoritarian Legacies
Tuesday, Oct 16	The Military as Authoritarian Enclave <i>Reading:</i> Loveman (1994)
Thursday, Oct 18	The Military in Brazil <i>Reading:</i> Hunter (1995)
Tuesday, Oct 23	Militaries in Chile & Argentina <i>Reading:</i> Pion-Berlin and Arceneaux (1997)
Thursday, Oct 25	Central American Militaries <i>Reading:</i> Ruhl (2004)
Tuesday, Oct 30	Economic Policy in Chile <i>Reading:</i> Posner (1999)
Thursday, Nov 1	Economic Policy in Mexico <i>Reading:</i> Boylan (1998)
Weeks 12 & 13	Clientelism
Tuesday, Nov 6	Clientelism vs. Political Equality <i>Reading:</i> Huber, Rueschemeyer, and Stephens (1997)
Thursday, Nov 8	Clientelism in Venezuela <i>Reading:</i> García-Guadilla and Pérez (2002)
Tuesday, Nov 13	Clientelism in Mexico <i>Reading:</i> *Solt (2003), pp. 131-155
Thursday, Nov 15	Clientelism in Brazil <i>Reading:</i> Weyland (1996)
Week 14	Fall Break
Week 15	No Class <i>Assignment:</i> Work on Final Paper
Week 16	Conclusion.
Tuesday, Dec 4	No Class <i>Assignment:</i> Work on Final Paper
Thursday, Dec 6	Conclusion <i>Assignment:</i> Final Paper Due