

Course Syllabus: PSCI 3032

Democracy, Inequality & Violence in Latin America

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Democracy, Inequality & Violence in Latin America

Course Prefix/Number: PSCI 3032

Credits: 3

Semester/Year: Fall 2022

Meeting Days/Time and Location: Tues/Thurs, 12:30-1:45pm, Eaton Humanities Bldg. 135

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Grant Cohen

E-mail: grant.cohen@colorado.edu

Office Location: Ketchum 224

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:15am – 12:00pm; Zoom meetings by appointment on MWF

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Latin American politics with a particular focus on regimes and democratization, social and economic inequality, as well as crime and violence. What are the obstacles facing democratic consolidation? What's the history and impact of non-democratic regimes in the region? What are the causes and consequences of high crime rates in various parts of the region?

Course Objectives

The goal is for students to be able to:

- Describe the historical context of the region
- Identify the key actors in the region
- Explain the obstacles facing democratization + history/impact of non-democratic regimes
- Analyze the causes and consequences of crime and violence in the region
- Understand the implications of US policy toward the region
- Examine features of development and political economy in the region
- Discuss current events in the region

Required Course Materials

All readings are available on Canvas, including academic articles, journalistic material, book chapters and more.

Additional readings may be assigned occasionally throughout the semester, such as news reports, podcasts and/or videos that relate to our class. You will be given fair notice if there are any changes to the assigned readings.

Grading Scale

A: 95+; A-: 94-90

B+: 89-88; B: 87-85; B-: 84-80

C+: 79-78; C: 77-75; C-: 74-70

D+: 69-68; D: 67-65; D-: 64-60

F: <60

Assignment Weight

Midterm Exam – 20%

Final Paper – 20%

Group paper & Debate – 20%

Quizzes (5) – 15%

News Assignments (5) – 15%

Attendance & Participation – 10%

Attendance & Participation

There will be a daily sign in sheet passed around during class. If, for some reason, you do not get the sign-in sheet when it's passed around during class, it is your responsibility to sign in before leaving class.

Students receive **4 “freebie” days**. Since you have 4 freebies, religious holidays, illness, family emergencies, and other issues **DO COUNT** against your absences. You are strongly advised to use your freebies for these purposes. You lose 3% of the attendance score per absence after the 4 freebies.

Students with 7 or more absences will either have to drop the class or may receive an “F.”

Since you have 4 freebies, DO NOT email excuses for absences to the instructor to explain why you missed a class. If you do email an excuse to the instructor, do not be offended, but you will probably not receive a reply.

Merely attending class is not considered participation. Coming prepared, partaking in class discussion and making meaningful contributions to the class are requirements to earn full credit for participation. Debate participation is crucial for your participation score.

News Assignments

You must submit a news article and analysis of how the story applies to the topic(s) we're discussing in class. *Must be 3–4 pages, double-spaced, 11 or 12-point font (standard 1-inch margins).*

There are 5 news assignments. Check the course calendar for due dates. Late news assignment submissions will be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date, but will be docked 3 points.

You may be asked to informally present your news topic and thoughts about it in class.

Quizzes

Quizzes are given at the start of class on the day indicated in the course calendar. **Makeup quizzes are NOT allowed. Please do not ask to make up a quiz if you miss one.** Quizzes are closed-note/closed-book.

Exam

The midterm exam is given at the start of class and you have the full period to complete it. They are all closed-note/closed-book and no electronics are allowed. Please BRING A BLUE BOOK to each exam (available at the CU bookstore, Amazon, etc.).

The midterm exam covers the first portion of class. The final exam is cumulative.

Makeup exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances. You must notify the instructor at least 24 hours before the exam. If you are granted permission to make up an exam, you will be expected to do so on the Tuesday or Thursday that immediately follows the exam day. The makeup would occur at 9:15am in Ketchum.

Final Paper

A final paper will be due at the end of the semester. See schedule below for exact dates/times. All requirements and expectations will be covered in class. Be sure to meet all important deadlines, which include: A) submitting a topic; B) submitting an outline and annotated bibliography; and C) submitting the final paper.

Group Paper & Debate Project

You will see a scheduled debate in the calendar. For each debate, you will be randomly assigned to a group and given a position to take. The group must turn in a response paper by the designated deadline. The paper must state the group's position regarding the debate question and support it with as much evidence as possible.

Group papers must be 3-5 pages (excluding the bibliography and cover page), 12-point font (or 11) and 1-inch margins.

Each group will select a speaker to make an opening statement at the debate. After each group makes its opening statement, the floor is open to all to share thoughts, relevant facts, and arguments.

Each student receives a grade based on A) the group response paper and B) each individual's level of participation. Participation is essential and debate participation constitutes the vast majority of your participation grade.

Missed Quizzes/Exams/News Assignments

Makeup exams are only allowed under extreme circumstances. Quizzes cannot be made up, so please do not ask.

You MUST inform the instructor and make an alternative plan BEFORE the exam date.

If the instructor is not notified until during or after the exam period, you will not be permitted to make it up.

If you're making up a quiz or exam, you MUST be available the Tuesday or Thursday that immediately follows the exam date. If granted, your makeup will only be offered at 9:15am the Tuesday or Thursday that follows the original in-class quiz/exam.

Late news assignments will be accepted if they are submitted to CANVAS within 24 hours of the deadline, but you will be docked 3 points. If the Canvas link is closed (it closes 24 hours after the deadline), do not email me your news assignment. It will not be accepted.

Grading Standards

Grading Standards	
A	Exceptional work. Demonstrates superb understanding of the course material <i>and</i> outstanding critical thinking and analytic rigor. Goes beyond simply answering the prompt to craft a creative and insightful analysis. Communicates information in a clear, concise, and mechanically correct manner. <i>An A grade will only be given if work is exceptional.</i>
B	Good work. Demonstrates a strong grasp of course material and good analytic rigor, but with some errors (e.g. faulty assumptions in logic or some incorrect descriptions of an author's argument). May have some problems with structure or mechanics but overall easy to understand the main gist. Solid work, but not the most original or insightful analysis.
C	Mediocre work. Applies some course material and themes, but demonstrates considerable misunderstanding of material. Difficult to discern the student's argument and the logic supporting this argument. A number of serious problems with structure and mechanics.
D	Poor work. May attempt to apply some course materials and themes, but demonstrates very serious errors or misunderstanding of course material. The student doesn't appear to have any argument, and the assignment lacks structure entirely and has extensive problems with mechanics. Shows little effort.
F	Very poor work. Assignment is unrelated to course material and fails to address the prompt and guidelines. Reflects a lack of effort.

Communication

You may contact me at my university email address. I will keep all communication to Canvas and university email. **You must check Canvas frequently** to keep up with important announcements.

Readings

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings by the day listed on the syllabus. You are expected to respond to reading-related questions during class sessions.

CALENDAR /ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNED READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS QUIZZES/EXAMS
8/23	Introduction & Syllabus	Read: Syllabus	
8/25	Intro to Latin American Politics	Read: Chapter One, "The Context of Latin American Politics," in <i>Latin American Politics and Development</i> Read: Chapter Two, "A Brief History of Latin America," in <i>Latin American Politics and Development</i>	
8/30	Conceptualizing Democracy	Read: Peter Smith. Introduction. "Dimensions of Democracy." Read: Philippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. "What Democracy Is... and Is Not." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 2(3): 75-88.	Quiz 1 at start of class
9/1	The Struggle for Democracy in LA	Read: Chapter Seven, "The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America," in <i>Latin American Politics and Development</i> Read: Peter Smith. Chapter 10. "Illiberal Democracy."	
9/6	Inequality in Latin America Colonial Legacies	Read: Daniel Hellinger. Chapter 2. "Inequality, Political Culture, and Popular Sovereignty" in <i>Comparative Politics of LA: Democracy at Last?</i> Read: Daniel Hellinger. Chapter 3. "History: Colonial Legacies, Mass Politics, and Democracy," in <i>Comparative Politics of LA: Democracy at Last?</i>	
9/8	ISI Dependency Theory Neocolonialism	Read: Daniel Hellinger. Chapter 6. "Development and Dependency Theory: Theory & Practice in Latin America," in <i>Comparative Politics of LA: Democracy at Last?</i> Recommended reading: Werner Baer. "Import Substitution Industrialization in Latin America: Experiences and Interpretations," in <i>Latin American Research Review</i> , Vol. 7, No. 1 (Spring, 1972) *CLARIFIES ISI IN L. AMERICA Recommended reading: Theotonio Dos Santos. "The Structure of Dependence," in the <i>American Economic Review</i> . Vol. 60, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the 82 nd Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May, 1970), pp. 231-236 *CLARIFIES DEPENDENCY THEORY	News article assignment 1 due by 11:59pm the night before class

9/13	The Military in Latin America	<p>Read: Dirk Kruijt. "Military Involvement in Latin American Politics," in the <i>South African Journal of Military Studies</i>. Vol. 47, Nr. 1 (2019)</p> <p>Read: Peter Smith. Chapter 3. "Historical Perspectives: The Military." ONLY PAGES 57-72; AND 85-90</p>	Quiz 2 at start of class
9/15	Third Wave of Democratization Latin America in the 1980s	Read: Karen Remmer. "The Process of Democratization in Latin America," in <i>Studies in Comparative International Development</i> (Winter, 1992-93)	
9/20	Third Wave of Democratization Latin America in the 1980s/1990s	Read: Scott Mainwaring and Anibal Perez-Linan. Chapter 1. "Latin American Democratization since 1978: Democratic Transitions, Breakdowns and Erosions," in the <i>Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America</i>	News assignment 2 due by 11:59pm the night before class.
9/22	Third Wave of Democratization Neoliberalism and the Washington Consensus	<p>Read: Kurt Weyland. "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record." <i>Latin American Politics and Society</i>. Vol. 46, Issue 1 (April 2004)</p> <p>Read: Jean Grugel & Pia Riggirozzi. "Post-neoliberalism in Latin America: Rebuilding and Reclaiming the State after Crisis," in <i>Development and Change</i> (Vol. 43, No. 1 (International Institute of Social Studies, 2012)</p>	Quiz 3 at start of class
9/27	Populism in Latin America The Pink Tide: Latin America in the early-2000s Inequality, Poverty and the Populist, Leftist Movement in Latin America	<p>Read: Daniel Hellinger. Chapter 5. "Populism, Development and Democracy in the 20th Century" in <i>Comparative Politics of LA: Democracy at Last?</i></p> <p>Read: Daniel Hellinger. Chapter 12. "Parties, Media and Left-Right Populism," in <i>Comparative Politics of LA: Democracy at Last?</i> *ONLY PAGES 392-399 (ON LEFT V. RIGHT POPULISM)</p>	
9/29	The Pink Tide Documentary: <i>South of the Border</i> (2009)	Read: Imelda Masni Juniaty Sianipar & Arthur Jefferson Maya. "Pink Tide: The Struggle of Venezuela and Bolivia for Social Sustainability." (2019)	News article assignment 3 due by 11:59pm the night before class.

10/4	<p>Latin America in the early-2000s:</p> <p>Leftist Populism in Latin America</p> <p>Ecuador</p>	<p>Read: Carlos de la Torre. "Technocratic Populism in Ecuador," in the <i>Journal of Democracy</i> (2013)</p> <p>Read: Carlos de la Torre. "Left-wing Populism: Inclusion and Authoritarianism in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador," in <i>Brown Journal of World Affairs</i> (Fall/Winter 2016)</p>	Guest Presenter: Dr. Nashira Chavez
10/6	<p>Successes and Failures of the Pink Tide</p> <p>Resource Curse</p>	<p>Kurt Weyland. "Latin America's Authoritarian Drift: The Threat from the Populist Left," <i>Journal of Democracy</i> (2013)</p> <p>Read: Carlos de la Torre. "Pushback against Populism: Why Ecuador's Referendums Failed," in the <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. Vol 31, No. 2. April, 2020.</p>	
10/11	Midterm Exam Preparation	Study for the exam and come to class prepared to ask substantive questions.	
10/13	Midterm exam	In-class exam on material covered up to this point. Bring a blue book. No notes, no electronics.	

10/18	<p>US-Latin American Relations</p> <p>Monroe Doctrine to the Good Neighbor Policy</p> <p>Cold War & US-Latin American Relations</p>	<p>Read: Mark Gilderhus. "The Monroe Doctrine: Meanings and Implications." <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> (March 2006)</p> <p>Read: Peter Smith. Chapter 7. "Crushing Enemies," in <i>Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the US and the World</i>.</p>	Quiz 4 at start of class
10/20	<p>Cold War & US-Latin American Relations</p> <p>Case Study: Operation Condor</p> <p>Post-Cold War US-LA Relations & Post-9/11 Relations</p>	<p>Read: McSherry, J. Patrice. "What was Operation Condor?" <i>Predatory States: Operation Condor and Covert War in Latin America</i> (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2005)</p> <p>Read: Barbara Zanchetta. "Between Cold War Imperatives and State Sponsored Terrorism-The US and Operation Condor," in <i>Studies in Conflict & Terrorism</i>, Vol 39, No. 12 (2016)</p>	

10/25	Debate preparation Day	Come to class prepared to work with your assigned group on the paper and debate day preparation. To make things easiest, please sit with your group when you arrive at class.	
10/27	Authoritarian Legacies	Read: Erica Frantz and Barbara Geddes. "The Legacy of Dictatorships for Democratic Parties in Latin America," in <i>Journal of Politics in Latin America</i> , Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 3-32 (2016) Read: Felipe Aguero. "Legacies of Transitions: Institutionalization, the Military, and Democracy in South America," in <i>Mershon International Studies Review</i> , Vol. 42, No. 2 (November 1998)	Group paper due by 10/30 at 11:59pm
11/1	Debate Day	Group Paper & In-Class Debate regarding US policy toward Latin America: Instructions will be provided	.
11/3	Transitional Justice Argentina, Chile	Peter Smith. Chapter 3. "The Military." Read pages 73-88 Read: Iasman Goes. "Between Truth and Amnesia: State Terrorism, Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice in Brazil." <i>European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies</i> No. 94 (April 2013), pp. 83-96	

11/8	Transitional Justice Argentina, Chile, Brazil	Read: Alejandro Chavez-Segura. "Can Truth Reconcile a Nation? Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Argentina and Chile: Lessons for Mexico," in <i>Latin American Policy</i> . Vol. 6, Issue 2 (December 2015)	News article assignment 4 due by 11:59pm the night before class
11/10	Transitional Justice	Read: Oskar Thomas, James Ron & Roland Paris. "State-Level Effects of Transitional Justice: What do we Know?" in the <i>International Journal of Transitional Justice</i> . Vol. 4 (August 2010) *READ TO PAGE 346	
11/15	Social and Economic Costs of Crime and Violence	Read: Alessandra Heinemann and Dorte Verner. "Crime and Violence in Development: A Literature Review of Latin America and the Caribbean," <i>World Bank Research Paper</i> (October 2006)	Quiz 5 at start of class
11/17	Civil War, Crime and Violence in Central America Documentary: <i>La Vida Loca</i> (2008); <i>Gangs of El Salvador</i> (Vice, 2015)	Read: Chapter 22, "El Salvador: Civil War to Uncivil Peace," in <i>Latin American Politics and Development</i>	Final Paper: Outline & Annotated Bibliography are due by 11:59pm on 11/17

11/29	Civil War, Crime and Violence in Central America Case Study: El Salvador	Read: Elisabeth Jean Wood. "Challenges to Political Democracy in El Salvador," in the <i>Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2005) Read: Orlando Perez. "Democratic Legitimacy and Public Insecurity: Crime and Democracy in El Salvador and Guatemala," in the <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> (Winter, 2003/04), pp. 627-644	News article assignment 5 due by 11:59pm the night before class.
12/1	Current Issues in Latin America COVID in LA A new Pink Tide? Colombia's Recent Election Brazil's Upcoming Election	Read: Javier Romero and Gabriel Lara Ibarra. "How COVID-19 is exacerbating inequality of opportunities in Latin America," in <i>World Bank Blogs</i> . November 23, 2021. https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/how-covid-19-exacerbating-inequality-opportunities-latin-america Read: "Covid-19 in Latin America: Responses are complicated by poverty, comorbidity, and political dynamics," <u>READING(S) TENTATIVE/TBD DUE TO BRAZILIAN ELECTION</u>	
12/6	Current Issues in Latin America A New Pink Tide? Brazil's Upcoming Election	<u>READING(S) TENTATIVE/TBD DUE TO BRAZILIAN ELECTION</u> Read: Isabel Woodford, Carlos Vargas and Gabriel Araujo. "Latin America's new 'pink tide' gains pace as Colombia shifts left; Brazil up next." <i>Reuters</i> (June 23, 2022) https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/latin-americas-new-pink-tide-gains-pace-colombia-shifts-left-brazil-up-next-2022-06-22/	
12/8	Writing Day [LAST DAY OF CLASS]	Work on your final papers. 1-on-1 meeting are available.	
12/11	FINAL PAPER DUE ON THIS DATE BY 11:59pm	Submit your final paper on Canvas by 11:59pm on 12/11	