

POLI 3360.03 Politics in Latin America

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Pessoa

Course Format: Asynchronous format

Office Hours: We can do virtual meetings any time on Fridays from 10 am till 5:00pm. Please email with your time request.

Office Location: Henry Hicks building, room 352

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In order to get a response from your instructor, you need to include the following in your email: full name, student number and the course number.

DESCRIPTION

From the colonial past to modern times, patterns of development and political upheavals have emerged and taken the region of Latin America into turbulent times. This course examines various themes that affects present political configuration in the region. It starts by discussing the concept of democracy and how it has been applied to Latin America. We also discuss colonial heritages on the region modern times, examining how colonial legacies have set strong frames of political development. From there, we examine major political phenomenon such as populism and development strategies, considering as well military involvement in politics. We then look at success and limitations of the Cuban Revolution.

After the winter break, we turn discussions to key political agents within the state and civil society. We start discussion with political parties and then move to social movements, and how the latter has affected traditional politics in the region. From there, we discuss neoliberalism and globalization. We particularly look at the economic and social effects of neo-liberal economic reforms and effects of globalization on the region. The course terminates by discussing Latin America region relation to the world politics.

OBJECTIVES

- To introduce, with details, contemporary issues of Latin American politics based on a variety of sources.

-To provide a sound intellectual basis to study Latin American political phenomena, on topic such as populism, from different points of view.

- To enable the student to proceed into specialized study on various themes within the Latin American field.
- To help the student remove ethnocentric bias that frequently tends to affect understanding of Latin American politics.

Assignments

Exam I (20%): March 4

Reading Review Paper (20%): February 18

Research Paper (40%): March 25

Exam II (20%): April 4 - 6

Exams

Each of the exam is based on readings and lecture notes up to the exam.

The Exam I (March 4) can be written anytime from 9:00am to 9:00pm.

The Exam II, you have a bigger window of time to write it. You have from April 4 at 9:00 am to April 6 at 9:00pm.

Reading Review

You are required to write one reading review for this course. The Reading Review should consist a summary from the assigned chapter AND your point of view on the topic. It should demonstrate you have read the chapter and have thought about some of the discussed points. The length of the review should be four pages

Research Paper

Students are required to write one fully written eight-pages paper (typed, double-spaced, 12cpi and numbered pages) on a relevant topic of the course. The approval of the professor is required, as *irrelevant topic is not accepted and automatically leads to an 'F' for the assignment.*

A separate essay guide will be circulated in class. *The assignment requires a minimum of four peer-reviewed academic sources and should not be drawn from the course lectures or textbook.* A Paper with less than four sources *automatically leads to an 'F' for the assignment.*

Late Policy: Extensions of deadlines are granted only due to illness, and must be followed by appropriate documents.

Late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Plagiarism is both morally and legally a form of fraud. Essays must be solely a product of the student's own work. Quoting or paraphrasing the work or ideas of others without proper acknowledgment is a serious offence in academia, and it can lead to drastic consequences. The teacher can offer some guidance of what does and does not constitute plagiarism.

Grade Scheme:

Here is the Dalhousie Grading Scheme found in your undergraduate calendar:

A+ = 90-100%	C+= 65 - 69%
A = 85 - 90%	C= 60 - 64%
A-= 80 -84%	C- = 55 - 59%
B+ =77-79%	D= 50 - 54%
B =73-76%	F = Bellow F
B- = 70-72%	

TEXTBOOK

There is only one text required for this course. However, extra materials are listed for each week.

Daniel C. Hellinger, **Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at Last?** 3rd Edition. New York: Routledge, 2021.

PROGRAM

January 5 - 7: Introduction

This is important week to read the syllabus and familiarize with the Brightspace

January 10 - 14: The concept of Democracy and the context of Latin America

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 1 & 2

Howard J. Wiarda, Harvey F. Kline, *A Concise Introduction to Latin America Politics and Development* (Boulder, Boulder Colorado UP, 2007), chapter 1.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=480219&site=ehost-live>

*Link to the whole book

January 17-21: Colonial Legacies

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 3 & 4.

Thomas E. Skidmore & Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 9th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), pp.1-12 & chapter 1.

Howard J. Wiarda, Harvey F. Kline, *A Concise Introduction to Latin America Politics and Development* (Boulder, Boulder Colorado UP, 2007), chapter 2.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=480219&site=ehost-live>

Patrice Franko, *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development*, 4 edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publisher, 2019), chapter 2: Historical Legacies.

January 24 -28: Populism in Latin America

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 5.

Juan Grigera et al, 'Populism in Latin America: Old and new populisms in Brazil and Argentina', *International Political Science Review*, 2017, 38(4), pp.441-455.

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/ljnbc9/TN_cdi_crossref_primary_10_1177_0192512117701510

Kurt Weyland, "Neopopulism and Neoliberalism in Latin America: How much affinity?", *Third World Quarterly* 24:6, 2003 pp.1095-1115.

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=TN_cdi_jstor_primary_3993445&context=PC&vid=DAL&search_scope=default_scope&tab=default_tab&lang=en_US

Ernesto Laclau, *Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory: capitalism, fascism, populism* (London: NLB, 1977) Essay: 'towards a theory of populism'.

January 31 – Feb 4: The search for Development: Structuralism and Dependency

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 6.

Cristobal Kay & Robert N. Gwynne. 'Relevance of Structuralist and Dependency Theories in Neoliberal Period: A Latin American Perspective.' *Journal of Developing Societies*. April 2000, 16(1), pp. 49-69.

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/ljnbc9/TN_cdi_proquest_journals_1416371109

Antunes de Oliveira F. 'The rise of the Latin American far-right explained: dependency theory meets uneven and combined development'. *Globalization*. 2019, 16(7): pp.1145-1164.

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/ljnbc9/TN_cdi_informaworld_taylorfrancis_310_1080_14747731_2019_1567977

February 7 - 11: The Military in Power

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 7 & 9.

Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective* (New York: Oxford Press, 2005), chapter 3.

Gregory Weeks, 'Civilian Expertise and Civilian-Military Relations in Latin America', *Latin American Policy*, 2012, 3(2), pp. 164-173.

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/ljnbc9/TN_cdi_crossref_primary_10_1111_j_2041_7373_2012_00068_x

Consuelo Cruz and Rut Diamint, The New Military Autonomy in Latin America, in Peter R. Kingstone (edit.), *Reading in Latin American Politics: Challenges to Democratization* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).

February 14 – 18: On the Cuba Revolution

Reading:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 9.

Thomas E. Skidmore & Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, sixth edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), chapter 9.

Geoglen Lambie (1999). 'Reinforcing participatory democracy in Cuba: An Alternative Development Strategy?', *Democratization*; 6:3, (autumn 1999), pp. 30-61.

February 21 – 25: Winter Break (No classes)

February 28: Revision

March 4: Exam I

March 7 - 11: Political Parties in Latin America

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 12

Catherine Reyes-Housholder. Gender Incentives, Party Support and Viable Female Presidential Candidates in Latin America. *Comparative Politics*, Volume 53, Issue 2, pp.331-355.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=147958826&site=ehost-live>

Howard J. Wiarda, Harvey F. Kline, *A Concise Introduction to Latin America Politics and Development* (Boulder, Boulder Colorado UP, 2007), chapter 6.

March 14 - 18: Politics of the streets: Civil Society & Social Movements

Readings:

Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 11.

Lindsay Mayka, 'Introduction the Grassroots Right in Latin America: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences', *Latin American Politics & Society*, Vol.63, issue 3, pp.1-20.

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=152365399&site=ehost-live>

Deborah J. Yashar, 'Indigenous Protest and Democracy in Latin America', in Peter R. Kingstone (edit.), *Reading in Latin American Politics: Challenges to Democratization* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).

Paul Almeida et al, *Handbook of Social Movement in Latin America* (Dordrech: Springer, 2015), 'Social Movements Across Latin America'

https://novanet-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/pf2q5o/NOVANET_ALEPH004809934

March 21 - 25: Neo-Liberalism and Globalization

Readings:

Reading: Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, chapter 2.

Stephen Kaplan, *Globalization and Austerity in Latin America* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2013)

<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=508897&site=ehost-live>

John Williamson, 'What Washington means by Policy Reform', in Peter R. Kingstone (edit.), *Reading in Latin American Politics: Challenges to Democratization* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).

Evelyne Huber & Fred Solt, 'Success and Failures of Neoliberalism', *Latin American Review*, Octo 2004, Volume 39, issue 3, pp.150-164.
<http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=14780849&site=ehost-live>

*Link to the full text.

March 28 – April 1: Latin America in Today: The rise of the right and democratic challenges (And revision for last exam)

Reading: Daniel C. Hellinger, *Comparative Politics of Latin America*, 15 & 16.

April 4 - 6: Exam II