GLB/Latin American Politics
(PSCI 333 – Non-European Political Systems)
Fall 2015
Tuesdays/Thursdays (3:30pm-4:45pm)
SS 134

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The BEST way to contact me is via email.

Course Description:

Welcome to Latin American Politics! The purpose of this course is to study the systems, institutions, historical processes, and cultural factors that influence political activity in Latin America. After a brief examination of early Latin American political history and the formation of independent states in the region, we will take an in-depth look at Latin American politics through the lenses of race, religion, gender and sports. Then, we will shift our focus to the types of governments that have emerged in the region: democratic, military, populist, and revolutionary. Subsequently, we will closely examine case studies of politics in three Latin American countries. The course will conclude by analyzing the rise of leftist presidents in Latin America.

Format:

Each class session will involve lectures and extensive discussions about the assigned readings. You will regularly be called upon to answer questions about the readings and provide your opinions on the assigned topics. In addition to the assigned readings listed in the syllabus, we will often read short news articles and opinion columns in class and discuss them on the spot, since developments in Latin American politics occur on a daily basis. In addition, we will use videos and invite guest speakers to further our understanding of Latin American politics.

This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor’s discretion.

NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME.
THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):
CELL PHONES,
LAPTOPS,
iPADS,
iPODS,
MP3 Players/Recorders,
Translation Devices
VIDEO CAMERAS
OR ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND

IF ANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE PRESENT IN CLASS THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL HAVE A POP QUIZ AND THE INDIVIDUAL(S) RESPONSIBLE MAY BE DIRECTED TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY.
Requirements/Assignments:

Examinations:

In this course, all students are required to take **TWO exams** that will be in a short answer/identification format. Each response will be graded by evaluating the accuracy and level of knowledge that you demonstrate in your answers. Together, these exams will comprise 72% of your grade (36% each). There is **not a final exam in this course**.

If you miss an exam, you will receive 0% for that exam.

If you have a legitimate reason for missing an exam (e.g. severe illness or injury requiring professional medical care, emergencies in your immediate family, participation in official university activities, legal obligations) AND you have **supporting documentation** for your absence, then you may request taking the MAKE-UP EXAM, which will **BE GIVEN AT A TIME AND DATE DETERMINED BY THE PROFESSOR**.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be submitted in writing and include **documentation** explaining and substantiating why the absence was legitimate. An approval to take the make-up exam will be based solely upon the professor’s evaluation of your request and any supporting documentation. **It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to notify me and provide documentation IN ADVANCE of missing an exam. If you do not provide this information in advance, you will receive 0% for that exam. If you miss an exam due to UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU MUST provide documentation for your absence in the class session immediately after the missed exam, or you will receive a 0% for that exam.**

**Attendance:** 10% of your grade is based on your class attendance. Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken at the end of each class session using a sign-in sheet. **Signing in a student who is not present or a asking a student to sign you in when you are absent constitutes academic dishonesty** (see p.3). It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they have signed in. Arriving late and/or leaving early will negatively impact your attendance grade. **Attendance is critical, discussions are irreplaceable, and course sessions cannot be “made up.” I will not be managing any excuses for absences. You can miss up to THREE class sessions without penalty for any reason. More than three absences will result in a reduction in your grade, REGARDLESS of the reason (excused OR unexcused).**

**Attendance Note 1:** If a pop quiz or any other assignment is given when you are absent, you CANNOT make it up, regardless of the reason for your absence (excused or unexcused).

**Attendance Note 2:** I will NOT reply to any emails asking what we did in class during your absence- We will follow the syllabus. If you miss class, get notes from a classmate and ask him/her if there were any announcements.

**Attendance Note 3:** Students who attend ALL class sessions will receive a bonus of 2% added to their final grade.
The attendance grade scale appears below.

- 0 absences = you will get a bonus of 2% added to your grade
- 1-3 absences = no penalty
- 4 absences = -1% from your grade
- 5 absences = -2% from your grade
- 6 absences = -3% from your grade
- 7-8 absences = -5% from your grade
- 9-10 absences = -7% from your grade
- 11 or more absences = -10% from your grade

Participation: Your participation in this class is highly desirable and will make class sessions more interesting. Positive participation includes responding to my questions, asking your own questions, and contributing to class discussions. Your participation in this course is worth 5% of your grade. However, if you use personal electronic devices in class, the entire class will take a pop quiz and you may be removed from the classroom. Also, if you misbehave in class or disrupt class in any way you may be directed to leave the classroom.

Pop Quizzes: These will be assigned only if anyone is found to be using an electronic device in class, and will count for a total of 3% of your grade. If you are absent when a pop quiz is given, you cannot make it up, irrespective of the circumstances, and will earn 0% for any quiz you miss. Pop quizzes will be graded on the basis of the content and clarity of your answers.

Short Writing Assignment: There will be one short (4 page) writing assignment in this course. This writing assignment is designed to provide political science majors with an artifact for your senior portfolio.

This assignment will require you to choose a feature film (NOT a documentary) that focuses on Latin American politics and write a four-page research paper that focuses your evaluation of how the film depicts the political and historical reality of the case it is based upon. Legitimate Internet sources for citations are acceptable; academic journals and books are preferred. At least five sources must be cited in your paper. Papers must be submitted in electronic form (as an email attachment) AND as a hard (printed) copy on or before November 24.

Your paper must be FOUR pages of text, not more, not less; typed 12-point Times New Roman font; double spaced; 1in. margins all around; and bibliographies are not included in that page count. Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason. More details on the short writing assignment, which is worth 10% of your grade, will be provided later in the course.

Graduating Student Portfolio (POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS ONLY): The portfolio assignment is designed to assist the Political Science Department in assessing how well students and faculty fulfill the department’s academic objectives. As a formal condition of graduation, all Political Science majors must submit a portfolio containing graded assignments from upper-level courses that were completed in the Department. It is the student’s responsibility to save all syllabi and graded course materials from every upper division political science course to complete the portfolio.
Candidates for December graduation must submit their materials by November 15 in the graduation year. Candidates for May or August graduation must submit their materials by April 15 in the graduation year. The requirements must be fulfilled in a conscientious fashion and follow the organizational guidelines listed below. Unsatisfactory portfolios and materials will be returned to the student for resubmission and may delay the date of graduation.

For specific portfolio guidelines and format, please pick up a portfolio guideline in the Department of Political Science.

**Grades:** Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. Specifically, the following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Exam #1 (October 22): 36%
- Exam #2 (December 10): 36%
- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 5%
- Short Writing Assignment (November 24): 10%
- Pop Quizzes: 3%

**A** 90-100%; **B** 80-89.9%; **C** 70-79.9%; **D** 60-69.9%; **F** Below 60%

**Learning Objective:**

Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understand the systems, institutions, historical processes, and cultural factors that influence political activity in Latin America.

**Global Learning Objectives:**

**Learning Outcome 1:** Students will be able to demonstrate *knowledge* of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

**Learning Outcome 2:** Students will be able to *apply* knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

**Learning Outcome 3:** Students will be able to view themselves as *engaged* citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.
COURSE POLICIES

**Academic Dishonesty of ANY kind:** Any student who is caught committing any kind of academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in this course and be reported to the University administration. “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), signing the attendance sheet for a student who is absent (or asking another student to sign you in when you are absent), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material” (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures A13.12). If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

**Email:** Before you ask me a question in an email, check to see if the syllabus answers your question FIRST. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, Monday-Thursday. Emails sent to me over weekends will be replied to on Mondays. I do not reply to emails that ask questions about items covered in the syllabus, such as what chapters are covered on an exam or what the assigned readings are for a given class session.

**Code of Student Conduct:** *Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.* Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being immediately dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library, Room 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
In order to maximize your performance in this course, you must:

- **TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO): CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPADS, iPODS, MP3 Players/Recorders, Translation devices, VIDEO CAMERAS, OR ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND**

- **IF ANYONE IS FOUND TO BE TEXTING OR ANSWERS A PHONE CALL DURING CLASS, THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL TAKE A **POP QUIZ** **ON THE SPOT.**

- Attend each class session AND arrive ON TIME (the classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals 15 minutes after class starts); Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early;

- Read the assigned material before class;

- Be prepared to discuss the topics presented in class;

- Refrain from reading materials or working on other homework during class;

- Do NOT get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom unless absolutely necessary;

- Be courteous to -and respectful of- your fellow students and professor.

**Required Readings:**

**Textbook**

There is **one required text** for this course:

  
  *by Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost*

  **ISBN:** 978-0-19-934025-5

**Readings Packet**

In addition to the text, there is a **required readings packet** that you will need to download and print out from dropbox.com.
Course Schedule:

**Week 1**  Introduction; Geography  
September 1, 3  
Read:  
- *Buy your book and download/print out your Readings Packet.*  
- Vanden and Prevost, Preface  
- Vanden and Prevost, Notes on Studying Politics in Latin America  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 1 “Introduction”

**Week 2**  Colonization  
September 8, 10  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 2 “Early History”

**Week 3**  Independence and Modernization  
September 15, 17  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 3 “Democracy and Dictators”

**Week 4**  Political Culture  
September 22, 24  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8 “Democracy and Authoritarianism”  

**Week 5**  Race & Politics  
September 29, October 1  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 4 “The Other Americans”  
- *(Readings Packet)* De la Cadena, Marisol “Reconstructing Race: Racism, Culture and Mestizaje in Latin America” NACLA Report on the Americas v. 34 no. 6 (May/June 2001)  

**Week 6**  Gender & Politics  
October 6, 8  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 5 “Society, Family, and Gender”
Week 7    Sports & Politics
October 13, 15
Read:

- **(Readings Packet)** Zolov, Eric: “The Harmonizing Nation: Mexico and the 1968 Olympics” in *In the Game*
- **(Readings Packet)** Rodriguez, Robert: “Generals and Goals: Nationalism and Sport in Argentina” in *Sport and the Construction of Identities*
- **(Readings Packet)** Farred, Grant: “Race and Silence in Argentine Football” in *In the Game*
- **(Readings Packet)** Daflon, Rogerio and Teo Ballve: “The beautiful game? Race and class in Brazilian Soccer”

Week 8    Religion & Politics; EXAM 1
October 20, 22
Read:

- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 6 “Religion in Latin America”

Read: Prepare for Exam #1.

- *Exam #1 will take place at the beginning of class on THURSDAY, the 22nd of October. You will have the entire class period to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented from the 1st of September through the 20th of October.*

Week 9    Political Economy; Populism
October 27, 29
Read:

- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7 “The Political Economy of Latin America”
- **(Readings Packet)** Conniff, Michael: Introduction “Populism in Latin America”

Week 10    Institutions
November 3, 5
Read:

- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 9 “Politics, Power, Institutions, Actors”

Week 11    Revolutions
November 10, 12
Read:

- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 10 “Struggling for Change”
Week 12  Case Study #1: Nicaragua  
November 17, 19  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 21 “Nicaragua”

Week 13  Film/Thanksgiving Break  
November 24, 26  
Read:  
- Nothing. We will watch a film in class on November 24th. We will not hold class on November 26th as it is Thanksgiving.

Week 14  Case Study #2: Argentina  
December 1, 3  
Read:  
- Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 13 “Argentina”

Week 15  The Latin American Left; EXAM 2  
December 8, 10  
Read:  
- (Readings Packet) Cleary, Matthew: “A ‘Left Turn’ in Latin America?: Explaining the Left’s Resurgence”  
- (Readings Packet) Castaneda, Jorge and Morales, Marco A. Chapter 1 “The current state of the Utopia” in LEFTOVERS Tales of the Latin American Left  
- Exam #2 will take place at the beginning of class on THURSDAY, the 10th of December. You will have the entire class period to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented from the 27th of October through the 8th of December.
STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I, ____________________________, have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and agree to the policies detailed therein as a condition of being enrolled in this course. I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, and/or receiving a grade of “F” in the course.

Student Signature:_______________________________________________

Student PRINTED Name: ___________________________________________

Date of Signature:__________________________

FAILURE TO RETURN THIS SIGNED STATEMENT BY THE FOURTH CLASS SESSION (September 10, 2015) WILL RESULT IN YOUR BEING DROPPED FROM THIS COURSE.