

**POLS\*3080  
POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA  
Department of Political Science  
University of Guelph**

**Fall 2011**

**Thursday 19:00 – 21:50  
Room: MACK 225**

**Professor Jordi Díez**

**Office: MacKinnon 539  
Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00 – 1:00  
jdiez@uoguelph.ca**

---

### **Overview**

This course offers students a critical introduction to the politics and society of Latin America, from its colonial legacies to the present. It is divided in two parts. The first part places Latin American political development in historical perspective and examines the legacies of the process of state formation during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, populism, revolutionary movements and military rule. In the second part we look at a variety of contemporary issues, such as the transitions from military to civilian rule and market economies, problems of political representation, the emergence of social movements and their role in the political process.

### **Format and Requirements**

The classes will be divided into a Lecture section and a Class Discussion section. Typically, the Lecture section will be scheduled in the period between 7:00 and 9:00, followed by a class discussion. In the discussion we will cover parts of the week's required readings and may also include discussion of relevant news events as they occur. Students should feel free to raise any questions they might have on the readings during this section. Unless otherwise noted, all the readings cited in this syllabus are **mandatory** and thus subject to examination. I may occasionally recommend supplementary material. Students are expected to do the readings **prior to class** and come prepared for participation and discussion.

To enhance class discussions of contemporary issues, students should make it a habit to follow current events in Latin America through the use of news sources (some of which are recommended below). Contributions to the discussion of current political development in class will most certainly enhance your participation grade.

The requirements of the course are as follows:

- In-class mid-term examination **October 20** (25%)
- Book Review **October 27** (10%)
- Research Essay (15 pages) **November 17** (35%)
- Final Exam (30%)

### **Required Texts**

The books cited below are required reading for the course and are available for purchase in the Campus Bookstore. The required readings also include journal articles accessible through the Electronic Journals collection on the library's website.

#### Books

1. Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. 2011 (Fourth Edition). *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Castellanos Moya, Horacio. 2009. *The She-Devil in the Mirror*. New York: New Directions

Students with little knowledge of Latin American history are strongly urged to purchase/read the following book (a copy of which has been placed on reserve in the library):

Benjamin Keen and Keith Haynes. 2004 (7th Edition). *A History of Latin America*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

#### Current Events in the Region:

Students are required to follow current political developments in Latin America. The best source in English is the *Latin American Data Base* (available in the library through 'journal indices'). *Current History* also contains many articles on recent political developments in the region. The 'Americas' sections of the *Financial Times* and BBC World News websites are not only very useful but perhaps the best sources in English on the region. Many NGOs working in Latin America have websites with up-to-date information on the region. Global Exchange, for example, often provides translations of recent articles from Latin American dailies.

### **Make-up Examination Policy**

Only under truly exceptional circumstances shall make-up tests be administered. Official medical, or similar, documentation, establishing that the student has been **\*incapacitated and unable to work,\*** is required. Such documentation must specify the dates of such incapacitation. After the end of the semester, make-up tests and final exams will only be administered after having been granted permission from the Academic Review Sub-Committee.

### **Essay and Book Review**

You are required to submit a fifteen-page essay based on topics that will be assigned to you on September 29 and a five-page review of the book *The She-Devil in the Mirror*. Since one of the objectives of the course is to enable students to improve their ability to write essays, the instructor

will read draft essays (not the book review) and provide comments. Draft first essays must be handed in on November 3, **in class**. If you wish to have a draft paper in before this date, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor. The book review is due on October 27. Guidelines on this project will also be given on September 29. We will discuss the book in our class of October 27.

There will be absolutely **no extensions granted** on the due dates for the essay assignment and the book review unless official medical, or similar, documentation – stating the student was incapacitated and unable to work – is provided. **The penalty for late submissions on both the essay and book review will be 3% of the grade per day, including weekends.** Students unable to submit them in class must do so through the ‘drop-off box’ of the Main Office of the Political Science Department before the end of the day, so that they are stamped and signed. Please note that the office closes at 16:30: Essays and reviews submitted after this time will be stamped and dated on the following day, and thus considered not-submitted. The very last day to submit coursework is November 24, after which the grade assigned to either the book review or essay **will be a 0 (zero).**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Essays, draft essays and book reviews are **not** accepted as e-mail attachments;
- In this class, students may **only** use electronic mail for **procedural inquires**. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings and written assignments must be asked in person;
- Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence that carries very severe penalties. **It is the student’s responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.** I urge you to take the time to review the academic rules regarding referencing and the borrowing of ideas and arguments (You can obtain information from the university’s Learning Commons <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WritingServices/>). Students **WILL NOT** be given the benefit of the doubt when a case of plagiarism is detected and will automatically be referred to the College’s Associate Dean so that the appropriate penalty is applied.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to the requirements, terms and conditions of the course.

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**September 8 – Introduction, Overview of the Course and the Region’s Colonial Legacy**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapters 1 and 2.
2. (Recommended) *A History of Latin America*, Chapter 1; pp. 35-39; 45-50; 75-89; and Chapter 5.
3. (Recommended) Adelman, Jeremy. 1999. *Colonial Legacies: The Problem of Persistence in Latin American History*. New York and London: Routledge Press. Pp: 1-13.

**September 15 –The Formation of the Latin American State**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 3 (pp. 42-54).

2. Lopez-Alves, Fernando. 2000. *State Formation and Democracy in Latin America*. Durham, BC: Duke University Press, Chapter 1.
2. (Recommended) *A History of Latin America*, Pp. 177-216.
3. (Recommended) Domínguez, Jorge I. 1980. *Insurrection or Loyalty: The Breakdown of the Spanish American Empire*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Pp. 1-7, 241-264.

### **September 22–Import Substitution Industrialization and the Populist Experience**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 3 (pp.54-64) and Argentina (Chapter 16).
2. (Recommended) Haggard, Stephan. 1990. “Mexico and Brazil in Comparative Perspective: Two Import Substituting Trajectories” in Stephan Haggard *Pathways from the Periphery*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, Pp. 161-188.

*In-class viewing of the documentary “Evita: The Woman behind the Myth.”*

### **September 29– Revolutions and Revolutionaries & Military Rule**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapters 10 (pp. 245-263) & 15, &12 (Guatemala) or 14 (Cuba), or 20 (Nicaragua).
2. (Recommended) Castañeda, Jorge. 1993. *Utopia Unarmed: The Latin American Left after the Cold War*. New York: Knopf, Pp. 67-81.
3. (Recommended) Cardoso, Fernando Enrique. “On the Characterization of Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America” in David Collier (ed.) *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Pp. 33-57.

*An overview of the essay and book review requirements will be conducted during the last half hour of the class (miss this session at your own peril!)*

### **October 6 – Economic Crisis and Economic Reform**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 7, 13 (Mexico) and 17 (Chile)

### **October 13 – Transitions to Democracy & Democratic Consolidation**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 8
2. Karl, Terry Lynn. 1990. “Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America.” *Comparative Politics* 23 (October); 1-21.
3. Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñan. 2005. “Latin American Democratization since 1978: Regime Transitions, Durability and Breakdowns” in Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring (eds.) *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **October 20 – Mid-Term Examination**

### **October 27 – In-Class Discussion of *The She-Devil in the Mirror***

● **BOOK REVIEW DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** ●

**November 3 – Institutional Politics in Post-Transition Latin America**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 9.

(Optional Draft Essays Due at the Beginning of Class)

**November 10 – The Politics of Class, Race, Ethnicity and Sexuality**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

**November 17– Social Movements and the Quest for Fuller Citizenship**

1. *The Power Game*, pp. 263-276.
2. Vanden, Harry. 2008. “Social Movements, Hegemony and New Forms of Resistance” *Latin American Perspectives* 34(2): 17-30.

● **ESSAY DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** ●

**November 24 – US-Latin American Relations & Latin America’s Shift to the Left**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 3 (pp. 65-78) and 11
2. Castañeda, Jorge. “Latin America’s Left Turn,” *Foreign Affairs*, 85 (3) May-June, 2006: 28-43.

**Students interested in taking this course should read the following very carefully (as per requested by the University Administration):**

**E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

**When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or designated person] in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration. ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml))

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 3**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

### **Copies of out-of-class assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar. ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c01/index.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c01/index.shtml)) for a statement of Students' Academic Responsibilities; also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml)). You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons (<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university's regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar ([http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad\\_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml](http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/c08/c08-ac.shtml)) and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.