

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

**Winter 2019**

**Thursdays 19:00-21:50  
Room: MINS 103**

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**Overview**

After a decade of high-growth levels guided by leftist governments (the so-called Left Turn), which saw a historic expansion of its middle class, Latin America seems to have entered a new historical phase marked by political change, including democratic reversals, and economic uncertainty. What accounts for this change of fortunes? This course answers this question by exploring the region's political development which has been guided by a historic attempt at establishing liberal democracy by its liberal elites.

**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. 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).

The requirements of the course are as follows:

- In-class mid-term examination      **Feb 14** (25%)
- Book Review                              **Mar 21** (10%)

- Research Essay **April 11** (35%)  
-Take-Home Final Exam **April 18** (30%)

### **Readings**

The books cited below are required reading for the course and are available for purchase in the Campus Bookstore as well as the Co-op Bookstore. The required readings also include journal articles accessible through Courselink.

#### Books

1. Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. 2018 (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Castellanos Moya, Horacio. 2009. *The She-Devil in the Mirror*. New Directions.

#### Current Events in the Region:

Students are highly encouraged to follow current political developments in Latin America. Reliable sources include *The Financial Times*, *BBC World News*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian*. For those fluent in Spanish, *El País* is a solid source on Latin America. 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.

### **Essay and Book Review**

You are required to submit a twelve-page essay based on topics that will be assigned to you on **February 28** as well as 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 well, I will read draft essays (not the book review) and provide substantial comments. Optional draft first essays must be handed in on **March 28, in class**. The Book Review is due on **March 21** and the essay on **April 11**. Guidelines on the two assignments will be given on March 1.

There will be absolutely **no extensions granted** on the due dates for the essay assignment and the book review unless official medical, or similar, is provided. **The penalty for late submissions on both the essay and book review is zero.** 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.

## **Take-Home Final Exam**

The Take-Home Final exam is due at noon on **April 19** and must be submitted through the Dropbox on Courselink by noon. Exams submitted after that time will be granted a zero. The Exam's question will be given to the class on March 15.

### **A Note to Cheaters**

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 (<http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/WritingServices/>).

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**

#### **Jan 10 – Introduction, Overview of the Course and the Region's Colonial Legacies**

*The Power Game*, Chapters 1 and 2.

#### **Jan 17 – The Formation of the Latin American State**

*The Power Game*, Chapter 3 (pp. 43-54).

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López-Alves, Fernando. 2000. *State Formation and Democracy in Latin America*. Durham, BC: Duke University Press, Chapter 1.

#### **Jan 24 – Import Substitution Industrialization and the Populist Experience**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-64) and Argentina (Chapter 13).

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

#### **Jan 31 – Revolutions and Revolutionaries & Military Rule**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 10 (pp. 255-276), & **One of:** 20 (Guatemala) **or** 19 (Cuba), **or** 21 (Nicaragua).

*In-class viewing of film Salvador Allende*

#### **Feb 7 – Democratization**

*The Power Game*, Chapter 8 and Chapter 14.

**Feb 14 – Mid-Term Examination**

**Feb 21 – Reading Break – No Class Scheduled**

**Feb 28 – Economic Reform and Post Neo-Liberalism**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 7, 12 (Mexico) and 15 (Chile)

*An overview of the essay and book review requirements will be conducted during the last half hour of the class.*

**Mar 7 – Institutional Politics in Post-Transition Latin America**

1. *The Power Game*, Chapter 9.

**Mar 14 – In-Class Discussion of *The She-Devil in the Mirror* and Viewing of Film *Granito***

**Mar 21 – The Politics of Class, Race, Ethnicity and Sexuality**

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

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

**Mar 28 – Social Movements and the Quest for Fuller Citizenship**

*The Power Game*, Chapter 10 pp. 277-289.

&

Vanden, Harry. 2008. "Social Movements, Hegemony and New Forms of Resistance"  
*Latin American Perspectives* 34(2): 17-30.

*In-class viewing of documentary "Gender under Attack"*

**Optional Draft Essays Due at the Beginning of Class**

**Apr 4 – US-Latin American Relations & Latin America's Shift to the Left**

*The Power Game*, Chapter 11.

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Remmer, Karen. 2011. "The Rise of Leftist-Populist Governance in Latin America: The Roots of Electoral Change" *Comparative Political Studies* 45(8): 947-972.

**Please read the following, 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 2015 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday Mar 8**. 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.