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PSC 325.01: Politics of Latin America

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The University Of Montana

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PSC 325 POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA
Department of Political Science, The University of Montana

Fall 1998

TR 8:10-9:30 in LA337

Instructor: Taeko Hiroi

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Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00 in LA355 (or by appointment, Office Phone: 243-4862)

Course Purpose: This course is designed to help students increase their knowledge and understanding of Latin American countries and the issues in Latin American politics from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: 1) demonstrate factual knowledge of Latin American politics, 2) analyze issues critical in contemporary Latin America, 3) take a position supported with theory and evidence in a discussion regarding Latin American countries, and 4) prepare a comparative research paper on Latin American politics.

No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin America; However, a willingness to work hard to understand Latin American politics is required. This includes that students read all assigned readings carefully and analytically and come to class prepared for discussion.

The major issues that we will be focusing on are democracy, development, political violence, nationalism, and sovereignty. In order to understand the complexity of Latin American politics, we will approach the problems through two dimensions: through its internal politics and its position in the international system.

Required Books:

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Fourth Edition. Oxford University Press, 1997.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America*. University of California Press, 1979.

Barry Ames, *Political Survival: Politicians and Public Policy in Latin America*. University of California Press, 1987.

Scott Mainwaring, Guillermo O'Donnell, and J. Samuel Valenzuela, ed., *Issues in Democratic Consolidation: The New South American Democracies in Comparative Perspective*. University of Notre Dame Press, 1992.

Additional readings are available through the Library's Reserve Room.

Assignments:

1. Read carefully and critically assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss the issues raised in those readings.
2. One short essay (3-5 pages) outlining and assessing the main arguments of the reading assigned for the day for which students choose to write. This essay must be presented and turned in at the beginning of the class.
3. A mid-term exam. Study questions will be handed out during the class before the day of the exam.
4. A final exam. Study questions will be handed out during the last class meeting.
5. A term paper dealing with issues in contemporary Latin American politics. Students must obtain instructor's approval for the theme of the paper by Thursday, November 5. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and approximately 15 pages in length, and turned in no later than Thursday, December 3.

NOTE: Please be aware that in order to maintain 'fairness,' late papers will be severely graded down. Specifically, grades will be reduced one-third of a letter grade per day that the assignment is late. For example, an assignment turned in one day late will go from a potential A to a maximum of A-. Two days late will result in a maximum grade of B+, etc. If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to hand in your paper on time, please come to explain to me *before the due date* why you are unable to do so.

Grading:

	<u>% of Final Grade</u>
Essay and class participation	20%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	30%
Term paper	30%

Course Structure and Reading Assignment

Part I: Introduction to Contemporary Latin America

- Tue. September 1: Introduction, Skidmore and Smith, Prologue
Thu. September 3: Historical Roots, Skidmore and Smith, Ch 1
Tue. September 8: Latin American Political Economy: From Export-Import Growth to Import-Substituting Industrialization, Skidmore and Smith, Ch. 2, and Stephan Haggard, *Pathways from the Periphery: The Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries*, Ch. 7, "Mexico and Brazil in Comparative Perspective: Two Import-Substituting Trajectories." (on reserve)
Thu. September 10: Quest for Socialism and the Question of Democracy (Chile), Skidmore and Smith, Ch. 4

- Tue. September 15: Populism and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism (Argentina and Brazil), Skidmore and Smith, Chs. 3 and 5
- Thu. September 17: Authoritarian Tradition, Personalistic Politics, and Democratic Reversal? (Peru), Skidmore and Smith, Ch. 6
- Tue. September 22: Revolution and Dilemma of Development (Mexico), Skidmore and Smith, Ch. 7
- Thu. September 24: Nationalism and the Struggle for Sovereignty (The Caribbean), Skidmore and Smith, Chs. 8 and 9
- Tue. September 29: Insurgencies and the Politics of Revolution (Central America), Skidmore and Smith, Ch. 10
- Thu. October 1: Latin America, the United States, and the World, Skidmore and Smith, Chs. 11 and Epilogue.

Tue. October 6: Mid-Term Exam

Part II: Political Economy of Latin America: Understanding Why Latin America Followed the Path It Did

A) Dependency Perspective

- Thu. October 8: Dependency Theory, Cardoso and Faletto, Preface and Chs. 1 and 2
- Tue. October 13: Development, Social Change, and the Political Role of the Middle Class, Cardoso and Faletto, Chs. 3 and 4
- Thu. October 15: Social and Political Forces of Development, Cardoso and Faletto, Ch. 5
- Tue. October 20: Latin America in the Global Economy and the 'New' Nature of Dependence, Cardoso and Faletto, Ch. 6, Conclusion and Post Scriptum

B) An Alternative Approach: Focusing on the Choices of Political Leaders

- Thu. October 22: The Theory of Survival Coalitions, Ames, Introduction and Chs. 1 and 2
- Tue. October 27: Theory of Survival Coalitions, Ames, Ch. 3
- Thu. October 29: Application of the Theory of Survival Coalitions, Ames, Ch. 4
- Tue. November 3: Election Day, No Class!
- Thu. November 5: Application of the Theory of Survival Coalitions, Ames, Ch. 5 and Conclusion

Part III: Latin America and Democracy

- Tue. November 10: Economic Reform and Social Costs, Joan Nelson, "Poverty, Equity, and the Politics of Adjustment," in Stephan Haggard and Robert R. Kaufman, ed, *The Politics of Economic Adjustment*. (on reserve)
- Thu. November 12: Democratization in South America, Introduction and "Transitions, Continuities, and Paradoxes" by O'Donnell in Mainwaring, O'Donnell and Valenzuela ed., *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.

- Tue. November 17: "Democratic Consolidation in Post-Transitional Settings: Notion, Process, and Facilitating Condition," Ch. by Valenzuela in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Thu. November 19: "The Games of Transition," Ch. by Przeworski in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Tue. November 24: Conditions Limiting Democratization, Ch. by Agüero in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Thu. November 26: Thanksgiving, No Class!
- Tue. December 1: "Capitalists, Technocrats, and Politicians," Ch. by Conaghan in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Thu. December 3: The Political Elite and Political Parties in Democratizing Countries, Ch. by Hagopian in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Tue. December 8: Issues in Democracy and Democratization in Latin America, Ch. by Mainwaring in *Issues in Democratic Consolidation*.
- Thu. December 10: Course Review and Exam Workshop
- Tue. December 15: Final Exam (8-10 am)

NOTE: MON., OCTOBER 12 IS THE LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR
CHANGE GRADING OPTION