

PSCI 3204
Politics of Latin America
11:35 p.m. – 14:25 p.m. Fridays
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Laura Macdonald
Office: C669 Loeb Building
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
Telephone: 613-520-2600 x 2771
E-mail: Laura.Macdonald@carleton.ca

Overview:

Bienvenidos! Welcome to the study of Latin American Politics. This course provides an introduction to the politics of Latin America, and will provide students with the basic tools for analyzing the changing political dynamics of that region. Latin America is an exciting area of the world with a wide variety of patterns of political and economic development. The first part of the course will provide an overview of historical developments in state and economy in the region since the pre-Conquest period. We will look at the roots of economic underdevelopment and political authoritarianism, at changing state-society relations, and at some of the main actors in Latin American politics (including external actors like the U.S. and Canada).

The rest of the course will focus on recent trends in Latin American politics. In recent decades, Latin America has been undergoing a rapid process of political and economic transition. Authoritarian regimes have been transformed into democracies, although significant authoritarian tendencies continue to prevail, and some countries face possible reversal of democratic reforms. As well, the market-oriented economic policies that were imposed after the debt crisis of the early 1980s were challenged by “new left” regimes in many countries of the region during the early 2000s, but more recently we have seen a swing back toward the right side of the political spectrum in some countries. We will examine these recent economic and political reforms, and also look at the rise of new political actors, like women and indigenous peoples, and conclude with a discussion of threats to public security. The discussion of general trends will be complemented by a discussion of specific country case studies.

Evaluation:

Class participation and attendance:	10%
Map quiz (in class January 20th):	5% (to be returned January 27 th)
Group presentation & report	15%
Mid-term exam (in class February 10th):	20%
Research essay (due in class March 17th):	25%
Final exam (in exam period):	25%

Text:

Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost (2015), *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press. Available at Octopus Bookstore, 116 Third Avenue (in the Glebe, by Bank Street). Here is a link to some FAQs about Octopus Books:

<http://octopusbooks.ca/students#faqs>

Note: Octopus requests that you come equipped with **the instructor's name** as well as the **course code**.

All other readings will be available through Ares on CULearn or on the course CULearn website.

Evaluation and Assignments:

Participation: Class attendance and participation are extremely important elements of this class. Attendance will be taken; late arrivals will not receive full credit. Students who participate regularly will receive a better grade than those who remain quiet. Come to class ready to discuss ideas and raise questions. As participants in this class, you are expected to complete the daily readings prior to class and make informed contributions to the discussion. This means that you will be prepared to respond to questions I may pose in class about the assigned readings. Additionally, you are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.

If you have to miss more than one class in a row due to illness or family emergency, please e-mail me.

Use of Laptops and other electronic devices during lectures:

You may use a laptop for the purpose of taking notes, but please be aware that the use of laptops and other electronic devices can be distracting, both for yourself and for those around you. Please read: Michael Oliveira, "Students' use of laptops in class lowers grades: Canadian study", <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/>

Please **SWITCH OFF** other electronic devices such as cell phones, Ipods, tablets (unless you use them for taking notes) etc.

Map Quiz – There will be a 15-minute geography quiz on January 20th. You must be able to identify the name of the country and its capital on a blank map (we will not include Caribbean countries not considered part of Latin America). See the map in Vanden and Prevost on the page before Chapter 1 (xxviii). The following is the list of countries and capitals that will be included in the quiz:

North America

Mexico – Mexico City

Caribbean:

Haiti – Port Au Prince

Dominican Republic – Santo Domingo

Cuba – Havana

Central America

Guatemala – Guatemala City

Belize – Belmopan

El Salvador – San Salvador

Honduras – Tegucigalpa
Costa Rica – San José

Nicaragua – Managua
Panama – Panama City

South America

Colombia – Bogotá
Ecuador – Quito
Peru – Lima
Bolivia – La Paz or Sucre
Paraguay – Asunción

Venezuela – Caracas
Brazil – Brasília
Chile – Santiago
Uruguay – Montevideo
Argentina – Buenos Aires

Group Presentation on Current Events

In week 2 you will sign up for a group presentation. Each group of students will make a 30-minute oral presentation about a contemporary issue affecting a Latin American country (or countries). Presentations, which will normally start at 2:35 p.m., will address the following issues:

1. Fight against violence and impunity in Honduras and Guatemala
2. Economic and political crisis in Venezuela;
3. Reforms in Cuba and normalization of relations with the U.S.
4. Impact of a Trump presidency on Mexico;
5. Canadian mining in Latin America
6. Economic and political crisis in Brazil;
7. Colombian peace process;
8. Conditional cash transfer programs (anti-poverty programs);
9. Security crisis and migration in the Northern Triangle of Central America.

Powerpoints are encouraged; short videos may also be helpful. See list of useful websites in this course outline for help in researching your topic.

Requirements for this presentation:

- One week before your presentation, each group must submit a list of the topics you will cover and a short bibliography with sources you will use; (worth 5% of total grade)
- 2 days before the presentation, send me your powerpoint so that I can post it to the course website;
- Day of the presentation: **Each individual must submit a 2-page (double spaced) report summarizing the main points of his/her oral presentation. Due *in class the same day* as your presentation. This will report will not be graded individually.**

You will receive both an individual and group mark on the oral presentation. Individual grade: based on enthusiasm, clear, dynamic presentation style, accuracy and relevance of information—do not read! Be punctual!!

Group mark: based on a dynamic team, members help each other and work as a group. I will also ask each group member to evaluate each other's participation (their evaluation is confidential).

Research essay:

Students will write one research essay on a topic from a list of questions to be distributed in class. These papers should be 12-14 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins) and should use a range of scholarly sources and research materials (at least 8-10 sources). *This paper is expected to show original analysis, sustaining an argument which will be supported with evidence. The paper should demonstrate careful and critical consideration of a broad range of carefully chosen, quality research sources (including peer-reviewed scholarly publications).*

Late Penalties

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. **Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day (the weekend will be treated as one day).** Papers will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. **Papers must be submitted in class on the due date.**

Exceptions will be made only in those cases where the student has written documentation, e.g. medical reasons.

Useful Websites:

Latin America Network Information Center at the University of Texas, Austin:

<http://www.lanic.utexas.edu>.

Political Database of the Americas at Georgetown University

<http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/home.html>.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America

www.eclac.org.cl

Organization of American States

www.oas.org

Washington Office on Latin America

www.wola.org

Observatory on Canada-Latin America Relations (OCLAR) - this is my website!

www.observatorio.ca

I strongly encourage you to sign up for this weekly update on Latin American news in English: Latin America News Roundup, produced by Center for Economic Policy Research (in English) - Free subscription available at:

http://www.cepr.net/index.php/component?option=com_issues/issue,15/lang,en/task,view_issue/

READING LIST**Part I: Introduction and Historical Background****Week 1 - January 6th – Introduction to the course and to Studying Latin America**

Vanden and Prevost, Introduction (pp. xxi - xxvii) and Chapter 1, pp. 1-17.

Week 2 - January 13th – Short survey of Latin American History – Pre-Conquest to Independence

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 2, pp. 18-41; Chapter 3, pp. 42-65.

Students will sign up today for oral presentations – be ready to choose your topic!

Week 3 - January 20th – Latin American Political Economy – Modernization and Dependency

Map quiz!!

Time for Group work - end of class

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7, pp.154-187.

J. Samuel Valenzuela and Arturo Valenzuela (1978), “Modernization and dependency: Alternative perspectives in the study of Latin American underdevelopment,” *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 10, no. 4 (July), pp. 543-557.

Week 4 January 27th – Forms of Authoritarianism - Caudillos, Populism and Military Dictatorships

Time for Group work - end of class

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, pp.182-187. AND Brazil, pp.381-388; Argentina, pp. 343-354; Chile, pp.409-415; Mexico 315-325.

Week 5 - February 3rd – Democratization and Consolidation? – 1980s – 2000s

Group Presentation 1: Fight against impunity

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, pp.195-203 Chapter 9 pp. 210 - 245 AND Mexico 325-341; Brazil 386-407; Argentina 436-459; Chile 415 - 431.

Juan Pablo Luna and Alberto Vergara, “Latin America’s Problems of success,” in *Journal of Democracy*, 7: 3, July 2016, pp. 158-165.

Armando Chaguaceda and Alex Caldera (2014), “The Mexican Crisis,” NACLA Report on the Americas, <https://nacla.org/news/2014/11/22/mexican-crisis>.

Week 6 – February 10th Neoliberalism

IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM

Vanden and Prevost, pp. 170 - 187; Chapter 13, “Mexico,” pp. 353-367.

Javier Corrales (2012), “Neoliberalism and its Alternatives,” in Peter Kingstone and Deborah Yashar, eds, *Routledge Handbook on Latin American Politics*, New York: Routledge, pp. 133-157.

Moises Naim, 1994. "The Second Stage of Reform," *Journal of Democracy* 5:4, 32-48

Week 7 - February 17th - Movements for Change: Revolution and Civil Society

Group presentation 2: Crisis in Venezuela

Group presentation 3: Reforms in Cuba

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 10, pp. 254-285, Chapter 14, "Cuba", pp. 515-537;
Venezuela

Margarita López Maya. 2011. "Venezuela: Hugo Chávez and the Populist Left" in
Levitsky and Roberts, eds. *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Baltimore: Johns
Hopkins, pp. 213-238.

READING WEEK - NO CLASSES!

Week 8 March 3rd – Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality

Guest lecturer: Megan Rivers-Moore, Women's and Gender Studies, Carleton University

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 4, pp. 82-106; Chapter 5, pp. 118-134

Amy Lind and Christine Keating. 2013. "Negotiating the Left Turn: Sexual Justice and
the Citizen Revolution in Ecuador." *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. 15(4):
515-533.

Patricia Richards. 2005. "The Politics of Gender, Human Rights, and Being Indigenous in
Chile." *Gender and Society* 19(2): 199-220.

Week 9 - March 10th – Role of the United States and Canada

Group presentation 4: Trump and Mexico

Group presentation 5: Canadian mining

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 11, pp. 286-313.

Alexander Main. 2014. "The U.S. Re-militarization of Central America and Mexico,"
NACLA Report on the Americas, Summer, <https://nacla.org/article/us-re-militarization-central-america-and-mexico>

Laura Macdonald. 2016. "Canada in the Post-Hegemonic Hemisphere: Evaluating the Harper Government's Americas Strategy," *Studies in Political Economy*, 97: 1, 1-17.

Week 10 March 17th - From Neo-Liberalism to Post-Neoliberalism and Back
FINAL ESSAY DUE March 17th IN CLASS (at beginning of class)

Group presentation 6: Crisis in Brazil

Group presentation 7: Peace process in Colombia

Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 17, Venezuela; Chapter 14, Brazil

Maxwell A. Cameron (2009), "Latin America's Left Turns: beyond good and bad" *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 30, Issue 2, pp. 331 – 348.

Week 11 March 24th - Inequality, Fiscal and Social Policy

Group presentation 8: Conditional Cash Transfer programs

Guest speaker: Paola Ortiz Loaeza, PhD student, University of Ottawa

Nancy Birdsall, Nora Lustig and Daryl Mcleod (2012), "Declining Inequality in Latin America: Some Economics, Some Politics," in Peter Kingstone and Deborah Yashar, eds, *Routledge Handbook on Latin American Politics*, New York: Routledge, pp. 158-180.

Rosalía Cortés (2009), "Social Policy in Latin America in the Post-neoliberal Era," in Jean Grugel and Pía Ruggirozzi, eds. *Governance After Neoliberalism in Latin America*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 89-112.

Week 12 - March 31st –Drugs, Violence and Insecurity

Group presentation 9: Security crisis in Northern Triangle

Cruz, José Miguel. 2011. "Criminal Violence and Democratization in Latin America: The Survival of the Violent State." *Latin American Politics and Society* 53 (4): 1-33.

Coletta Youngers (2014), "A Turning Point for Drug Policy," *NACLA Report on the Americas*, Summer, <https://nacla.org/article/turning-point-drug-policy>

Week 13 April 7th - Overview and Review

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to

send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.