

**PSCI 3204A**  
**The Politics of Latin America**  
**14:35 p.m. – 15:55 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays**  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor:** Laura Macdonald  
**Office:** C669 Loeb  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:30 – 12:30; Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 p.m.  
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**Overview:**

This course provides an introduction to the politics of Latin America, and will provide students with the basic tools for analyzing Latin American politics. Latin America is an exciting region 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 have been challenged by “new left” regimes in many countries of the region. 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 September 24 <sup>th</sup> ):	5% (to be returned on October 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Group presentation & report	15%
Mid-term exam (in class October 15 <sup>th</sup> ):	20%
Research essay (due in class November 14 <sup>th</sup> ):	25%
Final exam (in exam period):	25%

**Text:**

Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost (2012), *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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/book/course-book-faq>

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

Occasionally other short readings may be posted to the course website. Any readings which are not in the textbook and not available electronically (all journal articles should be available electronically through the library website) will be placed on Reserve in the library.

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

**Map Quiz** – There will be a 15 minute geography quiz on September 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 (xxii). 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

Honduras – Tegucigalpa

Costa Rica – San José

El Salvador – San Salvador

Nicaragua – Managua

Panama – Panama City

#### **South America**

Colombia – Bogotá

Ecuador – Quito

Peru – Lima

Bolivia – La Paz or Sucre

Paraguay – Asunción

Venezuela – Caracas

Brazil – Brasilia

Chile – Santiago

Uruguay – Montevideo

Argentina – Buenos Aires

### **“I know something that you do not know about this country”**

#### **Oral presentation and report – 20%**

Every class, a group of three to four students will make a 10-minute oral presentation about a Latin American country. Presentations, which will start at 1:00 p.m., must include – but are not limited to:

- Basic demographic information
- The head of state, his/her political affiliation;

- Legislative branch (unicameral-bicameral), political parties in the legislature; percentage of each party in the legislature (lower and upper chamber)
- A summary of the election results and main political events of the country in the last five years (2006-2011);
- Main exports;
- Important recent news about the country in 2011/12;
- Interesting facts – the country's most popular music, sports, food etc.

Powerpoints are encouraged; short videos may also be helpful; you are encouraged also to bring in flags, traditional objects, etc.

See list of useful websites for help in researching your country.

**Each group must also submit a 2-page report on the oral presentation. Due *in class* the same day as your presentation.**

You will receive both an individual and group mark. 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.

### ***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 including weekends.** 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>.

FOCAL (Canadian Foundation for the Americas)

[www.focal.ca](http://www.focal.ca)

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America

[www.eclac.org.cl](http://www.eclac.org.cl)

Organization of American States

[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

Washington Office on Latin America

[www.wola.org](http://www.wola.org)

**READING LIST****Part I: Introduction and Historical Background****September 10<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to the course and to Studying Latin America**

Vanden and Prevost, Introduction (pp. xvi-xxi)

**Film: Special Circumstances (270173) (73 minutes)**

**September 12 – Introduction to Studying Latin America**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 1, pp. 1-17.

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

**Week 2 (September 17, 19) – Short survey of Latin American History – Pre-Conquest to Independence**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 2, pp. 19-41; Chapter 3, pp. 42-78.

Film: Conquest of the Incas (251761).

W. George Lovell, "Surviving conquest: the Maya of Guatemala in historical perspective," *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 23, no. 2, 1988, pp. 25-57.

**Costa Rica Group presents September 19<sup>th</sup>****Week 3 (September 24, 26) – Latin American Political Economy – The Roots of Underdevelopment**

**Map quiz September 24!**

**Nicaragua Group presents September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7, pp.151-63.

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 (October 1, 3) – Populism/Import Substitution (1940s – 60s)****El Salvador Group presents October 1; Guatemala Group presents October 3**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7, pp. 164-8; Mexico 347-353; Argentina 430-33; Brazil 398-402.

Kurt Weyland, 2001. "Clarifying a contested concept: Populism in the study of Latin American Politics," *Comparative Politics*, vol. 34, no. 1, pp. 1-22.

Vanden and Prevost, "Chapter 13: Mexico" – 344-353; "Chapter 15: Brazil," 398-402; "Chapter 16: Argentina," 425-434.

### **October 8 - Statutory Holiday**

### **Week 5 (October 10) – Military Dictatorships (1970s)**

#### **Mexico group presents today**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, pp.182-187. AND Brazil, pp. 402-403; Argentina, pp. 434-436; Chile, pp. 463-467.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1979), "On the Characterization of Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America," in David Collier, ed. *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America*, Princeton University Press, pp. 33-57.

### **Week 6 (October 15, 17) – Democratization and Consolidation? – 1980s – 2000s**

#### **IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM October 15<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Cuba Group presents October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, pp. 187-201; AND Brazil 403-421; Argentina 436-459; Chile 467-481.

Terry Lynn Karl (1990), "Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America," *Comparative Politics*, pp. 1-21.

### **Week 7 (October 22, 24) – Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality**

#### **Dominican Republic Group presents October 23, Honduras Group presents October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 4, pp. 79-103; Chapter 5, pp. 104-130, Chapter 20 "Bolivia", pp. 556-588.

Teresa Sacchet (2008), "The Impact of Gender Quotas in Latin America," *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 369-386.

### **Week 8 (October 29, 31) – Role of the United States and Canada**

#### **Panama Group presents October 30, Paraguay Group presents November 1<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Film: The War on Democracy (267321) (94 minutes)**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 11, pp. 277-303.

Ricardo Grinspun and Yasmine Shamsie (2010), "Canada's Re-engagement in Latin America: Missing the Mark again," *NACLA: Report on the Americas*, Vol. 43, No. 3 (May/June), 12-17.

**Week 9 (November 5, 7) – Movements for Change: Revolution and Civil Society**

**Bolivia Group presents November 5<sup>th</sup>, Ecuador Group presents November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Guest Lecturer November 7<sup>th</sup>: Professor Carmen Nava, from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UAM-Xochimilco), Mexico City**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 10, pp. 245-276, Chapter 14, "Cuba", pp. 369-396; Nicaragua pp. 537-566.

**Week 10 (November 12, 14) – Neoliberalism and Democracy**

**Venezuela Group presents November 12<sup>th</sup>, Colombia Group presents November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**FINAL ESSAY DUE November 14<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS**

Vanden and Prevost, pp. 169- 181; Chapter 13, "Mexico," pp. 353-367.

Kurt Weyland (2004), "Critical Debates: Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record," *Latin American Politics & Society*, Vol. 46, no. 11, pp. 135-157. Access at:

<http://www.umass.edu/legal/Benavides/Fall2005/397U/Readings%20Legal%20397U/5%20Kurt%20Weyland.pdf>

**Week 11 (November 19, 21) - The Turn to the Left: From Neo-Liberalism to Post-Neoliberalism**

**Peru Group presents November 19<sup>th</sup>; Argentina Group presents November 21<sup>st</sup>**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 18, pp. 483-507

Jorge Castañeda, (2006), "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 85 no. 3, pp. 28-43.

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

**Week 12 (November 26, 28) – Drug Wars and Violence**

**Chile Group presents November 26; Uruguay Group presents November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Javier Auyero (2000), "The Hyper-Shantytown: Neo-Liberal Violence(s) in the Argentine Slum," *Ethnography*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 93-116.

Patrick Radden Keefe (2012), "Cocaine Incorporated," *New York Times Magazine*, June 15, Access at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/magazine/how-a-mexican-drug-cartel-makes-its-billions.html?pagewanted=all>

### **Week 13 (December 3): Review**

#### **Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (*November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for December examinations and March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 for April examinations*).

**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](http://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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), 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.