

## Politics of South America

**Instructor:** Dr. Barry Levitt  
**Office:** DM 481-B  
**Office Hrs:** T 11:30-1:00, Th 12:30-1:45  
**Class Mtng:** T-Th, 2:00-3:15  
**Location:** PC 438  
**Contact:** Please use the email function  
 on our course's CE 6 website.



### Outline

This course is an advanced study of the politics of South America. Readings and lectures are largely based in political science as a discipline, but also draw upon other perspectives (e.g. history, anthropology, economics).

The course offers an overview of Latin America's past, present and future—but focuses primarily on the contemporary period and the recent past, highlighting important political developments in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Bolivia.

### Readings

A textbook is available for sale at the university bookstore: Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.

All other readings are available online at our course's CE 6 (formerly called WebCT) site. Login at <https://lms.fiu.edu>, then find our course and look for file(s) named "Course Readings."

### Evaluations

Midterm Exam	35%	2/26
Short (5-6 pg) paper	20%	3/27
Final Exam	45%	4/24 (exam week)

**Guidelines for Participation, Academic Integrity and Classroom Civility**

1. Class starts at 2:00 pm precisely. By 2:05 pm, the doors will be closed and students will NOT be allowed into class (regardless of weather, traffic, or the validity of other individual excuses). Once class has started, please do not leave until we finish at 3:15 pm.
2. Consistent and timely reading is the key to success in this course. Every student must arrive to our class prepared (with outlines or notes) to participate in a discussion of the day's readings. You should expect to read 45-60 pages per session, or 90-120 pages per week.
3. There will be no daily attendance roll. However, the material covered on the exams will include lectures and discussion that you will miss if you are not in class. To put it bluntly, if you do not attend class on a regular basis you will almost certainly fail the course.
4. Our exam dates are set at the start of the semester, so I am unlikely to allow you to take a make-up exam if you miss one, regardless of the circumstances. In rare cases of severe and verifiable emergency or illness, I may, at my discretion: a) allow you to write a make-up exam on a date of my choosing or b) calculate your course grade without this exam. In the majority of cases, however, if you miss an exam you will simply receive a zero.
5. The FIU Code of Academic Integrity and all related University policies on cheating will be rigorously and strictly enforced at all times. (Please refer to the section on "Academic Misconduct" in the annual *Student Handbook* for further details.) Students who cheat in this class will face the most severe sanctions allowable: failing grades, disciplinary probation, suspension, even expulsion. What's more, cheating is demeaning to the student who commits the infraction as well as to classmates and professors. So don't do it; it's really not worth it.
6. Students will not talk in class except to ask/respond to questions or participate in organized group discussions. Additionally, students must turn off cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic devices during class.
7. I strongly encourage you all to visit me or your teaching assistant during our respective office hours. If you wish to communicate with us outside of these times, please send an **email message via our course's CE 6 site** rather than leaving a phone message. Your email message must a) have a subject line that indicates the content of the message, and b) be professional in tone and composition, with a salutation, proper grammar and punctuation, etc. We will generally be able reply to you within 24-48 hours.
8. I expend a great deal of effort to ensure that your grades in this course accurately reflect the quality of your work. Any questions that you may have about grades must be presented in writing, and may not be submitted sooner than one week after receiving the grade in question. (And if in this written statement you insist that your grade should be reexamined, please understand that as a consequence your grade could go down as well as up.)
9. Kindly show the respect that is due to your classmates (and, of course, your professor). We are all here to learn, and we all have something to contribute!

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

1/8 INTRODUCTION

1/10

The Colonial Era

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 1 up to “The Roots of Independence,” p. 26

1/15

The Nineteenth Century

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 1 from p. 26, “The Roots of Independence” to end
- E. Bradford Burns, *The Poverty of Progress*, Chs. 1, 7

1/17

Twentieth Century Trends: Economic and Social

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 2
- Tina Rosenberg, “The Free Trade Fix,” *NYT Magazine*

1/22

Twentieth Century Trends: Political

- Lewis, *Authoritarian Regimes in Latin America*, Ch. 9, “Counterrevolutionaries”
- Karen Remmer, “The Process of Democratization in Latin America”
- Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán, “Latin American Democratization Since 1978,” pp. 14-25, 38-54, 56-59

1/24

Twentieth Century Trends: Political

- Guillermo O’Donnell, “Illusions About Consolidation”
- Jorge Domínguez, “Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America: Taking Stock of the 1990s”
- Jorge Castañeda, “Latin America’s Left Turn,” excerpt
- “The Latinobarómetro Poll: A warning for reformers,” *The Economist*, Nov 15th 2007, online (including charts) at [http://www.economist.com/world/la/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=10136464](http://www.economist.com/world/la/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10136464)

1/29

ARGENTINA

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 3, pp. 69-89
- Peter Winn, *Americas*, Ch. 4, “A Second Independence”
- Linda Hall, “Evita Perón: Beauty, Resonance, Heroism”
- Film footage of Evita Perón (in class)

1/31

## ARGENTINA

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 3, pp. 89-101
- Tina Rosenberg, *Children of Cain*, Ch. 2, “The Good Sailor”
- Nancy Bermeo, “The Violent Death of Democracy in Argentina,” Chapter 6 of *Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times: The Citizenry and the Breakdown of Democracy*

2/5

## ARGENTINA

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 3, pp. 101-108
- Petras, “Popular Struggle in Argentina”
- Levitsky, “Argentina: Democratic Survival Amidst Economic Failure”
- Film, “Argentina: Hope in Hard Times” (in class)

2/7

## CHILE

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 4, pp. 109-136
- Tina Rosenberg, *Children of Cain*, Ch. 6, “The Pig’s Tail”
- Film, “The Battle of Chile” (in class)

2/12

## CHILE

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 4, pp. 136-138
- Steve Stern, *Remembering Pinochet's Chile: On the Eve of London, 1998* (excerpt)
- Peter Siavelis, “How New Is Bachelet’s Chile?”
- Film, “Chile, Obstinate Memory” (in class)

2/14

## BRAZIL

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 5, pp. 139-175
- Skidmore, “Bi-Racial USA vs. Multi-racial Brazil”

2/19

## BRAZIL

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 5, pp. 175-178
- Look at <http://www.mstbrazil.org/> -- especially links from “About the MST”
- Film: *Strong Roots: The Landless Workers Movement In Brazil* (in class)

2/21

## BRAZIL

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 5, pp. 179-180
- Kurt Weyland, “The Growing Sustainability of Brazil’s Democracy”
- Hunter and Power, “Rewarding Lula”

**2/26 MIDTERM EXAM**

2/28

PERU

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 6, pp. 181-213

3/4

PERU

- Tina Rosenberg, *Children of Cain*, Ch. 3, “Dialectic”
- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 6, pp. 213-217
- Skim the final report of Peru’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, <http://www.cverdad.org.pe/ingles/ifinal/conclusiones.php>
- Film: *State of Fear*, excerpts (in class)

3/6

PERU

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 6, pp. 217-220
- *The Fujimori Legacy*, Ch. 2 (Mauceri) & Conclusion (Carrión)
- Robert Barr, “The persistence of Neopopulism in Peru? From Fujimori to Toledo”
- Gregory Schmidt, “Back to the future? The 2006 Peruvian general election”

3/11

COLOMBIA

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 7, pp. 221-246
- Francisco Gutiérrez Sanin and Luisa Ramírez Rueda, “The Tense Relationship...” Ch. 11, in Burt and Mauceri, *Politics in the Andes*

3/13

COLOMBIA

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 7, pp. 246-253
- Robin Kirk, *More Terrible Than Death*, excerpts
- John C. Dugas, “The emergence of Neopopulism in Colombia? The case of Álvaro Uribe”

**3/18, 3/20: SPRING BREAK**

3/25

VENEZUELA

- Steve Ellner, “Venezuela,” Ch. 21 in JK Black *Latin America: Its Problems and its Promise*
- McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, Ch. 1
- Ellner and Hellinger, *Venezuelan Politics in the Chavez Era: Class, Polarization, and Conflict*, Ch. 2

**3/27****(paper due today in class)**

VENEZUELA

- “VENEZUELA: A Nation on the Edge” (PBS, *Frontline World*, watch online at <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/venezuela/> )
- Online new sources (pro- and anti-Chávez) (TBA)

4/1

BOLIVIA

- José García, “Bolivia,” Ch. 24 in JK Black *Latin America: Its Problems and its Promise*
- Gamarra and Malloy, “Bolivia: Revolution and Reaction”
- “BOLIVIA: Leasing the Rain,” (PBS, *Frontline World*, watch online at <http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bolivia/> )

4/3

BOLIVIA

- Donna Lee Van Cott, *From Movements to Parties in Latin America: The Evolution of Ethnic Politics*, Ch. 3
- Eduardo Gamarra, *Bolivia on the Brink*, excerpts
- Matthew M. Singer, “The presidential and parliamentary elections in Bolivia, December 2005”
- “BOLIVIA: On the Road With Evo” (PBS, *Frontline World*, watch online at [http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2006/05/bolivia\\_on\\_the.html](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2006/05/bolivia_on_the.html) )

4/8

ECUADOR

- Andrade and North, “Ecuador,” Ch. 22 in JK Black *Latin America: Its Problems and its Promise*
- Alan Gerlach, *Indians, Oil and Politics*, selected chapters

4/10

ECUADOR

- Donna Lee Van Cott, *From Movements to Parties in Latin America: The Evolution of Ethnic Politics*, Ch. 4
- Catherine Conaghan, “The 2006 presidential and congressional elections in Ecuador”
- Catherine Conaghan, “Ecuador’s Gamble: Can Correa Govern?”

4/15

US-Latin American Relations

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Ch. 12
- Coletta Youngers, “Collateral Damage,” Ch. 7, in Burt and Mauceri, *Politics in the Andes*
- Bowman, “Battle for the Heart of the Heavyweight”

4/17

The Future of South America

- Peter Hakim, “Latin America: the Next U.S. President’s Agenda”
- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., Epilogue

**FINAL EXAM: Thurs., April 24, 11:15 am - 1:15 pm**