

International Relations 365: Politics and Democracy in Latin America

Fall 2008

When: Tu & Th 3:30-4:50
Where: VKC 156
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:30

Professor Gerardo Munck
E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office: VKC 326A

1. Course Description

The course focuses on Latin America's experience with democracy and seeks to offer: 1) an survey of the region's experience with democracy, 2) a detailed discussion of the trends in Latin American politics over the last 25 years, and 3) a discussion of the challenges Latin America has still not managed to tackle successfully.

The course will seek to meet these objectives by offering both broad overviews of the region and in-depth analyses of a set of countries. The selected countries are those that are economically dominant in the region (Brazil and Mexico), that exemplify certain common patterns or notable alternatives (Argentina, Chile, Cuba) or that have been demonstrated some particularly troubling trends in recent times (Bolivia, Peru, and Venezuela). Though an emphasize will be placed on events in these countries since the 1980s, the historical context of recent developments and external influences (in particular, the role of the United States) will also be considered.

2. Requirements

The basic requirements include six quizzes (30% of the overall grade), an in-class mid-term (35%), and an in-class final exam (35%). With regard to the quizzes, I have included provisional dates in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class. Of the six quizzes, I will drop the lowest one and thus compute grades on the basis of your best five quizzes.

3. Readings

We will use one book, which is available at the university bookstore: Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America* Sixth edition (Oxford University Press, 2004). We will also read some articles, that will be accessible through the Blackboard, under "Course Documents."

Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

I. Meetings # 1, 2, 3 & 4 (8/26, 8/28, 9/2, 9/4). Issues and Trends

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Prologue, Chs. 1 and 2

II. Meetings # 5, 6, 7 & 8 (9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/18). Argentina

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 3.
- Levitsky, Steven and Victoria Murillo, "Argentina: From Kirchner to Kirchner," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 19, N° 2 (April 2008): 16-30.
- **Quiz # 1** (9/18)

III. Meetings # 9, 10, 11 & 12 (9/23, 9/25, 9/30, 10/1). Chile

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 4.
- **Quiz # 2** (10/1)

IV. Meetings # 13, 14 & 15 (10/7, 10/9, 10/14). Brazil

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 5.
- Sola, Lourdes. "Politics, Markets, and Society in Lula's Brazil." *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 19, N° 2 (April 2008): 31-45.
- **Quiz # 3** (10/14)

Meeting # 16 (10/16). Mid-Term

*** In-Class Mid-Term Exam: October 16 **

V. Meetings # 17, 18, 19 & 20 (10/21, 10/23, 10/28, 10/30). Mexico

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 8.
- **Quiz # 4** (10/30)

VI. Meetings # 21, 22 & 23 (11/4, 11/6, 11/11). Cuba

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 9.
- **Quiz # 5** (11/11)

VII. Meetings # 24, 25, 26 & 27 (11/13, 11/18, 11/20, 11/25). The Andean Region

- Scott Mainwaring, "The Crisis of Representation in the Andes," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 17, N° 3 (July 2006): 13-27.
 - Cynthia McClintock, "An Unlikely Comeback in Peru," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 17, N° 4 (October 2006): 95-109.
 - Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold, "Venezuela: Crowding Out the Opposition," *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 18, N° 2 (April 2007): 99-113.
 - Teodoro Petkoff, "A Watershed Moment in Venezuela," *IAD Working Paper* (July 2008). 16 pp.
 - Eduardo A. Gamarra, "Bolivia on the Brink," *Council Special Report* (February 2007), 46 pp.
 - George Gray Molina, "Bolivia's Long and Winding Road," *IAD Working Paper* (July 2008). 17 pp.
- Quiz # 6 (11/25)**

***** Thanksgiving Holiday: November 27 *****

VII. Meeting # 28 (12/2). The United States and Latin America

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Ch. 12.

VIII. Meeting # 29 (12/4). Overview and a Look Forward

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Epilogue.

***** Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16, 2-4 p.m. *****