

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

POSC 156
Spring 2006
T-Th 12:35
Wehr Physics 138

Prof. M. Fleet
Wehr Physics 446
Of. Hrs: T-Th, 2:00-3:30
Wed., 8:00-11:00

LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

This course deals with contemporary political life in Latin America. It covers Mexico, Cuba, and the six major countries of South America, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela. Readings, lectures, and class discussions will focus on cultural values and influences, economic institutions and forces, the military, the influence of external forces, and recent efforts to strengthen and deepen democratic institutions and practices. In each of the countries we study, we will look at their recent (1970s and early-1980s) experiences with authoritarian rule, the "transitions" to civilian rule and "democracy" that have followed upon them, and the problems that Latin American countries have encountered in deepening and consolidating their newly restored democracies.

The course will require active student participation. Each student will be asked to make a brief, ten-minute presentation to the class on current developments in one of the eight countries we will be studying. Students are also expected to do the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to discuss them critically. Those who might be uncomfortable responding when called upon in class might consider writing (typing) out their questions and comments in advance, and be ready to clarify or elaborate upon them in class. In either event, class participation will make up **20%** of a student's semester grade. In addition, there will be **three** (3) 1,500-word, take-home essay exams, each worth **15%**, and a semester take-home, essay exam, worth **35%**, of the semester grade.

The following books should be purchased and read by all:

Alma Guillermoprieto, Looking for History, Dispatches from Latin America;
Domínguez and Shifter, Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America;
Peter Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Political Change in Comparative
Perspective;
O'Donnell, Vargas Cullell, and Iazzetta (eds.), The Quality of Democracy.

Course Outline and Readings

- 1 - **Introduction** (Jan. 17th) - Latin American politics: patterns and tendencies
- 2 - **Cultural Politics** - Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, and Mexico (Jan. 17th - Feb. 2nd).

Readings: Guillermprieto, Looking for History (to be done prior to class):

For **Jan. 19th** - "Little Eva," pp. 3-17, and "The Harsh Angel," pp. 73-86;

For **Jan. 24th** - Multi-sided Civil War in Colombia, pp. 19-71;

For **Jan 26th** - Revolutionary Cuba, pp. 87-152;

For **Jan. 31st** - The Intellectual as Politician in Peru, pp. 155-177;

For **Feb. 2nd** - Mexico, The Ending of an Era, part 1, pp. 178-223;

For **Feb. 7th** - Mexico, The End of an Era, part 2, pp. 224-303;

First Essay Exam - due **Feb. 7th** - question available Jan. 27th

3. **Democratic Government in Latin America** (Feb. 9th - March 9th)

Readings: Domínguez and Shifter, Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America (to be done prior to class);

For **Feb. 9th** - Shifter (Ch. 1, "Introduction"), pp. 3-7; and Carey (Ch. 2, "Presidentialism and Representative Institutions"), pp. 11-42;

For **Feb. 14th** - Diamint (Ch. 3, "The Military"), pp. 43-73;

For **Feb. 16th** - Ch. 4 ("Market Reforms"), pp. 74-99, and Ch. 5 ("Latin American Labor"), pp. 100-117;

For **Feb. 21st** - Ch. 6 ("Women and Democracy"), pp. 118-136, and Ch. 7 ("Public Opinion"), pp. 137-161;

For **Feb. 23rd** - Ch. 8 ("Venezuela"), pp. 165-192, and Ch. 9 ("Colombia"), pp. 193-219;

For **Feb. 28th** - Ch. 10 ("Peru"), pp. 220-243, and Ch. 11 ("Argentina"), pp. 244-268;

For **Mar. 2nd** - Ch. 12 ("Brazil"), pp. 269-291;

For **Mar. 7th** - Ch. 13 ("Chile"), pp. 292-320;

For **Mar. 9th** - Ch. 14 ("Mexico"), pp. 321-347, and "Conclusion," pp. 351-381;

Second Essay Exam - due **Mar. 9th** - question available Mar. 2nd

4. **Democracy: When, Where, and Why** (Mar. 14th - Apr. 4th)

Readings: Smith, Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective (to be done prior to class);

For **Mar. 16th** - Introduction, and Chs. 1 and 2, pp. 1-72;
For **Mar. 21st** - Chs. 3, 4 and 5, pp. 73-155;
For **Mar. 23rd** - Chs. 6 and 7, pp. 156-209;
For **Mar. 30th** - Chs. 8 and 9, pp. 211-262;
For **Apr. 4th** - Chs. 10 and 11, pp. 263-310;
For **Apr. 6th** - Ch. 12, and Epilogue, pp. 313-345.

Third Essay Exam - due **April 6th** - question available Mar. 30th

5. How Democratic? (Apr. 7th - May 4th)

Readings: O'Donnell, Vargas Cullell, and Iazzetta, The Quality of Democracy (to be done prior to class):

For **Apr. 18th** - O'Donnell et alia, Introduction, and Chapter 1, pp. 1-92;
For **Apr. 20th** - O'Donnell et alia, Ch. 2, pp. 93-162;
For **Apr. 25th** - O'Donnell et alia, pp. 165-187;
For **Apr. 27th** - O'Donnell et alia, pp. 188-216;
For **May 2nd** - O'Donnell et alia, pp. 217-238;
For **May 4th** - O'Donnell et alia, pp. 239-265;

Semester Essay Exam - due **May 12th** - question available May 4th