

## PSCI 3032: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course is designed with three broad objectives in mind. First, it will introduce the modern political history of Latin America, with an eye toward considering social scientific explanations for the region's economic, political, and social problems. Second, it will highlight contemporary issues in and threats to the region's newfound democratic regimes. Finally, it will consider the recent rise of the "new left" and debate various interpretations of this new leadership.



**REQUIRED READING:** All readings listed on this syllabus are required. Three books are available for purchase at the CU Book Store. They are (1) *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game, 2<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2006) by Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost; (2) *Global Studies: Latin America, 12th Edition* (2007) by Paul B. Goodwin; and (3) *The Massacre at El Mozote* (1994) by Mark Danner. The remaining reading materials are available on course electronic reserves. On this syllabus, readings from Vanden and Prevost are abbreviated (VP), readings from *Global Studies* are abbreviated (GS), and readings from Danner are (*Massacre*). Other readings available on electronic reserves are indicated by "(RES)".



**GRADING:** The class is centered on readings, lectures, films, and class discussions. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and lecture material. Therefore, 5% of the final grade will be based on how often students participate in class discussions. Another 10% will be based on attendance. The instructor will keep track of attendance, and you will be allowed three unexcused absences. Beyond three unexcused absences, your attendance grade will be lowered from 100 by five percentage points *per absence*. Students with 12 or more unexcused absences will either have to drop the class or receive an "F".

Fifty percent of the final grade will be based on an "Exam" (20%), a "Quiz" (10%), and a "Final" (20%), which are closed-book, in-class examinations. Under no circumstances will an examination be given to anyone on a day other than that already specified on this syllabus! Students with disabilities who require alternative arrangements must also take these on the day specified on this syllabus.

Finally, 10% of the final grade is based on a short, two-page research paper and 25% percent of the final grade is based on a longer, 800- to 1000-word research paper. Research papers handed in after the specified time will have 10 percentage points subtracted from their final score each business day they are late. There is one

possibility for a small extra credit project in this course that I can discuss with interested students.

Overall, the final grade will be allocated in the following manner:

Exam:	20%
Quiz:	10%
Research Paper:	25%
Short Paper:	10%
Final:	20%
Participation:	5%
Attendance:	10%

As always, academic dishonesty is not tolerated; you will receive an “F” and may be expelled. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, passing off the work of others (especially student colleagues or published work) as your own. There is more on the university’s policy on academic dishonesty at the end of this syllabus.



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Exam	October 4
Quiz	November 1
Research Paper Due	November 15, 5PM
No Class	November 20 and 22
Short Paper Due and Debate	December 6, 5PM
Final Exam	December 18



**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**INTRODUCTION**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Aug. 28 and 30</b>
Panorama of Latin American	• pp. <i>xiv</i> -18 (VP)
Politics, Economics, and Society	• “Latin America,” pp. 3-6 (GS)

**UNIT 1: WHY DOES LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY FEATURE SO MUCH POLITICAL INSTABILITY, AUTHORITARIANISM, AND ECONOMIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT?**

<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Sept. 4 and 6</b>
(1) Colonial Legacy	• pp. 18-53, 81-113, 175-183 (VP)

<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Sept. 11 and 13</b>
(2) Dependency Theory	• Valenzuela and Valenzuela (RES)
(3) Modernization Theory	• pp. 145-163 (VP)

<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Sept. 18 and 20</b>
(4) U.S. Intervention	• pp. 53-80, 433-447 (VP)
	Film: <i>Missing</i>

<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Sept. 25 and 27</b>
Example: The Case of El Salvador	• pp. 242-247 (VP)
	• pp. 3-162 ( <i>Massacre</i> )

Film: *Romero*

**Week 6**

Review and Exam

**Oct. 2 and Oct. 4**

Exam is October 4 in class

**UNIT 2: CAN DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH TAKE ROOT IN LATIN AMERICA? ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIZATION AND DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION**

**Week 7**

Democracy and Democratization  
(1) Religion

**Oct. 9 and 11**

- Huntington (RES)
- pp. 126-144 (VP)
- “Lighting on new faiths...” in *Economist* (RES)

**Week 8**

(2) Market Liberalization

**Oct. 16 and 18**

- pp. 163-173 (VP)
- “Falling off a Cliff,” pp. 179-181 (GS)
- “Just Garments,” pp. 194-195 (GS)
- “The Harnessing of Nature’s ...,” pp. 207-209 (GS)
- “Adios to Poverty ...” in *Economist* (RES)

**Week 9**

(3) The Military Legacy  
(4) “Delegative” Democracy

**Oct. 23 and 25**

- “Slaking a thirst for justice” in *Economist* (RES)
- O’Donnell (RES)

**Week 10**

Review and Quiz

**Oct. 30 and Nov. 1**

Quiz is November 1 in class

**UNIT 3: HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND AND INTERPRET THE NEW LATIN AMERICAN LEFT?**

**Week 11**

Understanding Latin American  
Political Institutions  
Populism

**Nov. 6 and 8**

- pp. 185-235 (VP)
- “The Return of Populism” in *Economist* (RES)

**Week 12**

The Left Turn

**Nov. 13 and 15**

- “Latin America’s Populist Turn,” pp. 165-170 (GS)
- “Latin America’s Populist Shift,” pp. 171-172 (GS)
- “Taking Root,” pp. 173-176 (GS)
- “No Left Turn,” pp. 200-201 (GS)
- “Lula’s Leap,” pp. 202-204 (GS)
- “A Leader Making Peace ...,” pp. 210-211 (GS)

November 15: Research Paper Due at 5PM

**Week 13**

Fall Break

**Nov. 20 and 22**

No Class

**Week 14**

The Face of the New Left:  
Hugo Chavez

**Nov. 27 and 29**

- pp. 469-495 (VP)
- “Venezuela,” pp. 110-115 (GS)
- “The Chavez Challenge,” pp. 215-218 (GS)
- “What Are They So Scared Of?”, pp. 219-221 (GS)

**Week 15**

Competing Perspectives on the  
New Left

**Dec. 4 and 6**

December 6 is in-class debate.  
December 6: Short Paper Due at 5PM

**Week 16**

Conclusions and Review

**Dec. 11 and 13**

Final Exam

**Dec. 18 (for the 12:30 class)**

December 18, 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**Dec. 19 (for the 3:30 class)**

December 19, 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM



**READINGS ON RESERVE:**

- Valenzuela, J. Samuel and Arturo Valenzuela (1978). "Modernization and Dependency." *Comparative Politics*. Vol. 10: No.4. July 1978. pp. 535-557.
- Huntington, Samuel (1991). "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy*. Vol. 2, no. 2.
- *Economist* (2007). "Lighting on new faiths or none." May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- *Economist* (2007). "Slaking a thirst for justice." April 14.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo (1994). "Delegative Democracy." *Journal of Democracy*. Vol. 5, no. 1: pp. 55-69.
- *Economist* (2006). "The Return of Populism" April 12.
- *Economist* (2007). "Adios to Poverty, Hola to Consumption." August 16.



**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO POLICIES:**

**Students with Disabilities**

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities should ask for "reasonable and timely" accommodations. You are welcomed to do so in the first two weeks of the semester either during my office hours or after class. These accommodations can be extended if you are a student with a disability and are registered with the Office of Services to Disabled Students. Please refer to the web link [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices) or contact 303-492-8671, Willard 322 for information. University regulations on this issue will be strictly observed. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating or plagiarizing will be treated according to the University regulations which will be strictly observed. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the University of Colorado's Code for Academic Honesty at [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/).

### **Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students in this situation can ask for "reasonable and timely" accommodations. Please review the syllabus closely and try to find out whether you have time conflicts with any of the assignments. I encourage you to do so in the first two weeks of the semester and inform me about your concerns either during my office hours or after class. Full details can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources

available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.