

POLI 140C: Latin American Politics
2016 Summer Session II
Monday/Wednesday 1:00-4:30pm
Physical Sciences Building 140

Instructor: Aaron Augsburger

email: aaugsbur@ucsc.edu

Office: Merrill 137

Office hours: Wednesday, 11:00am – 1:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the dynamic nature of Latin American politics by examining historical and contemporary political, social, economic and cultural changes, continuities, and challenges. As a region, Latin America is an extremely diverse, complex, and rapidly changing place with a variety of peoples, geographies, and cultures, all sharing similar turbulent political histories. These histories are marked by radical changes and seemingly intractable continuities. Latin America has experienced countless periods of social and political transformation, yet economic inequality, poverty, racism, and a lack of democratic political participation persist for many throughout the region. In order to explore these changes and continuities we will study a variety of phenomena such as economic development, globalization, political parties, regime changes, democratization, and social movements, among others. The course will provide students with an understanding of the historical and contemporary dynamics of Latin American politics while also developing students' critical reading, writing, and communication skills.

No assumptions are made regarding students' familiarity with Latin America. I do, however, assume a willingness on the part of students to spend considerable time engaging the intricacies and nuances of the region by reading carefully and preparing in advance to participate in class discussions. Proper preparation is a necessity for high quality discussions, as well as for high quality grades.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on the following three requirements:

- 1) Participation (25%): Students' participation grades will be based on active engagement in our class meetings and/or attending office hours. Attendance in class is mandatory. Class participation includes arriving to class on time, reading presentations, active involvement in class discussions, respectful and thoughtful debate, coming with questions related to the material, etc.
- 2) Midterm essay exam (25%): This midterm essay exam is due at the beginning of Week 4 (Meeting 7) and will be based on the material covered in the first half of the course.

Students will be given a list of 3 questions related to the material and need to craft a 4-5 page (double-spaced) essay answering 1 of the 3 questions. Essays are expected to be well thought-out, organized with a clear thesis, with citations from our reading material, and proofread.

- 3) Final paper (50%): The final exam for this course is an 8-10 page (double-spaced) paper. Students will choose a topic from one week in the course (ie. political economy, parties and institutions, social movements, etc.) and analyze the topic in relation to one or two countries/cases in Latin America. For this paper students must use outside sources. Our course readings can serve as a foundation for your paper, but students are required to consult other scholarly sources (books and/or articles) based on their own research. Students are required to meet with me by the end of Week 4 (August 17) to discuss their proposed paper topic. I am also happy to meet during office hours or by appointment to discuss strategies for doing research and writing.

- Late Policy: All papers/exams will be marked down a third of a grade for each day following the due date.

- DC Requirement: In the Politics major the university's DC requirement is fulfilled by completing any three of your required four core courses (105A, B, C, D; 120A, B, C; 140A, B, C, D; 160A, B, C). The goal of the Disciplinary Communication requirement is to ensure that you acquire the skills in writing and other forms of communication necessary for your major. The central goals of the core courses are breadth of knowledge within the major and training and improvement in writing. You should see the core courses as a progressive and cumulative process requiring sustained attention to the form and quality of your writing. Another form of disciplinary communication is speaking and discussion. You are encouraged to work on the clarity and quality of your contributions to section and lecture discussions.

- Citation and Bibliography: All courses in the Politics department use one of two standard forms of citation: (1) parenthetical, in-text citations, or (2) footnotes. For the in-text system, the department follows the *Modern Language Association* (MLA); for footnotes, the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Descriptions of both styles can be found on the Politics department website at <http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html> All papers must also include a bibliography or works cited page.

- DRC Accommodation: UCSC is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center to me within the first two weeks of the quarter. Students who may benefit from learning more about DRC service should contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu.

- Use of technology and etiquette in class: Please be respectful and only use laptops for note taking, and please do not text in class.

Required Texts

In addition to the textbook below, the additional assigned readings will be posted on ecommons. Please be sure to buy the most recent 3rd edition of the Munck text.

- Ronaldo Munck, *Contemporary Latin America*, 3rd Edition, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

Class Schedule

Meeting 1 – Monday, July 25: Locating Latin America

- Chapters 1-2 in Munck, pp. 1-36.

Meeting 2 – Wednesday, July 27: Historical Overview (Simon Bolivar)

- Chapter 3 in Munck, pp. 37-60.
- John Charles Chasteen, *Born of Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006), pp. 49-110.

Meeting 3 – Monday, August 1: Political Economy and Models of Development (Commanding Heights)

- Chapter 4 in Munck, pp. 61-82.
- José Antonio Ocampo and Jaime Ros, “Shifting Paradigms in Latin America’s Economic Development,” in José Antonio Ocampo and Jaime Ros, *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 3-25.
- Arturo Escobar, “The Problematization of Poverty: The Tale of Three Worlds and Development,” in *Encountering Development: The Making and Unmaking of the Third World*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), pp. 21-54.

Meeting 4 – Wednesday, August 3: Societies and Cultures

- Chapters 5 and 9 in Munck, pp. 83-106, 177-198.
- Maxine Molyneux and Marilyn Thomson, “Cash transfers, gender equity and women’s empowerment in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia,” *Gender and Development*, 19 (2), 2011, pp. 195-212.

Meeting 5 – Monday, August 8: Latin American Political Cultures (when the Mountains Tremble)

- Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost, “Democracy and Authoritarianism,” *The Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 182-200.
- Joel Horowitz, “Populism and Its Legacies in Argentina,” in Michael Conniff (ed.), *Populism in Latin America*, (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2012), pp. 22-42.
- Luis Roniger, “Favors, ‘Merit Ribbons’ and Services: Analyzing the Fragile Resilience of Clientelism,” in Tina Hilgers (ed.), *Clientelism in Everyday Latin American Politics*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), pp. 25-40.

Meeting 6 – Wednesday, August 10: Parties and Institutions (Midterm exam handed out) (Our Brand Is Crisis)

- Chapter 8 in Munck, pp. 155-175.
- Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, “Party Systems in Latin America,” in Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully (eds.), *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995), pp. 1-28.
- Juan Linz, *The Failure of Presidential Democracy: The Case of Latin America*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), pp. 3-15.

Meeting 7 – Monday, August 15: Social Movements (Midterm exam due) (A Place Called Chiapas)

- Chapter 7 in Munck, pp. 133-154.
- Harry Vanden, “Social Movements, Hegemony, and New Forms of Resistance,” in *Latin American Social Movements in the Twenty-First Century*, (New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008), pp. 39-56.

Meeting 8 – Wednesday, August 17: Latin America and Globalization

- Chapter 10 in Munck, pp. 199-222.
- William I. Robinson, “An Epochal Shift in World Capitalism,” in *Latin America and Global Capitalism*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), pp. 1-50.

Meeting 9 – Monday, August 22: The “Left Turn” (South of the Border)

- Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts, “ Latin America’s Left Turn: A Framework for Analysis,” in Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts (eds.), *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011), pp. 1-26.
- Steve Ellner, “Complexities of the Twenty-First Century Radical Left in Power,” *Latin American Perspectives*, 40 (3), 2013, pp. 5-21.
- Henry Veltmeyer and James Petras, “A Turn of the Tide: The Center-Left Comes to Power,” in *Social Movements in Latin America: Neoliberalism and Resistance*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), pp. 145-161.

Meeting 10 – Wednesday, August 24: Conclusions and Futures

- Chapter 11 in Munck, pp. 223-248.

Final Papers Due Friday, August 26