



USC University of Southern California

Political Science 350: Politics of Latin America

Fall 2021

When: M & W 3:00-4:20 p.m.
Where: CPA 156
Office Hours: M 1:00-2:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Professor Gerardo Munck
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Grader: Nancy Hernandez
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Course Description

Latin America is the region of the developing world with the greatest experience with democracy. It has also had considerable experience with populist leaders, military rulers, and a few important revolutions. And it has been the region of the world in which the influence of the United States has been greatest.

This course offers an introduction to politics in Latin America that addresses the variety of political experiences in the region. The course is divided into three parts. (1) It starts with a broad overview of the region that addresses the formation of modern states, nation building projects, the struggles to attain and maintain democracy, models of economic development (2) It turns next two countries (Chile and Argentina) that experienced military rule, took a strong stance on human rights, and served in various ways as models for the region. (3) Finally, it discusses two countries (Mexico and Cuba) that underwent revolutions in the 20th century, followed by prolonged periods of authoritarianism, and that currently face the challenge of attaining peace (in Mexico) and democracy (in Cuba). Where relevant, external influences, such as the role of the United States, are considered.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the course are: (1) to introduce basic concepts used in the study of politics around the world (e.g. democracy, nation building, military regimes, models of economic development); (2) to introduce students to the main trends in Latin American politics and to some of the key political challenges currently faced by countries in Latin America; and (3) to learn how countries can be compared to each other.

Requirements, Grading Breakdown and Scale

Students are expected to complete the reading assignment for each topic. Students are also responsible for mastering the additional materials that are introduced in class, in power points that will be distributed after class.

Course grades are based on the following tests: four *quizzes* (15% of the overall grade), a first in-class quiz-based *mid-term exam* (15%), a second in-class essay-type *mid-term exam* (30%), and an in-class essay-type *final exam* (35%).

Assignment	% of Grade
4 Quizzes	15
Mid-term Exam I (quiz based)	15
Mid-term Exam II (essay type)	35
Final Exam (essay type)	35
Total	100

With regard to the quizzes, we will have five quizzes and the lowest one will be dropped. Provisional dates for the quizzes below are included in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class.

The dates of the mid-term and final exams are also noted below in the syllabus. If the schedule of a quiz or in-class exam conflicts with a religious holy day, please let me know and I will arrange for you to take it some other time.

Grading Scale	
Number	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D

Readings and Class Power Points

All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under “Readings.” Below you will see which reading you are responsible for reading for each meeting of the class. (Some of the electronic files include sections that do not need to be read. The specific page numbers you need to read are clearly indicated below.)

The power points of each class will be uploaded to the Blackboard after each class; you will find them under “Power Points.”

Topic Outline and Reading Assignments

Meeting # 1 (8/23): Introduction

Part I. Issues and Trends in Latin America

Meeting # 2 (8/25). The State and State Capacity

Munck, Gerardo L., and Juan Pablo Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis* (New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2022), Ch. 1. “The State and State Capacity.”

Meeting # 3 (8/30). Nation Building, Race, and Ethnicity

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming), Ch. 2. “Nation Building, Race, and Ethnicity.”

Meeting # 4 (9/1): Political Regimes I. Dictatorships and Democracy Before the Cuban Revolution

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming), Ch. 3. “Political Regimes and Democracy.” (Read from the start through the end of section 3.3.2, “Populism and Military Coups.”)

Meeting # 5 (9/6): No class. Labor Day

Meeting # 6 (9/8): Political Regimes II. Dictatorships and Democracy Since the Cuban Revolution

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming), Ch. 3. “Political Regimes and Democracy.” (Read from section 3.3.3, “The Cuban Revolution and Violent Authoritarianism,” until the end of the chapter.)

• Quiz # 1 (9/8)

Meeting # 7 (9/13): Political Regimes III. Democratic Breakdowns in 21st Century Venezuela and Nicaragua

Seelke, Clare Ribando et al., “Venezuela: Background and U.S. Relations” (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2021). 34 pgs. (Read from page 1, with the section on “Political Situation,” until the top of page 22.)

Corrales, Javier, “Authoritarian Survival: Why Maduro Hasn't Fallen.” *Journal of Democracy* 31,3 (2020): 39–53.

Martí i Puig, Salvador, and Macià Serra, “Nicaragua: De-democratization and Regime Crisis.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 62, 2 (2020): 117–36.

Meeting # 8 (9/15); Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare I. From Agro-Export to ISI

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming), Ch. 4. “Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare.” (Read from the start through the end of section 4.3.3, “Strong Progress.”)

Meeting # 9 (9/20): Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare II. From ISI to Neoliberalism

Munck and Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society* (forthcoming), Ch. 4. “Development Models and Socioeconomic Welfare.” (Read from section 4.3.4, “Internal Limits and the Foreign Debt Crisis of the 1980s,” until the end of the chapter.)

Meeting # 10 (9/22): Mid-Term I (Quiz-Type)

**Part II. Chile and Argentina:
Military Rule, Democracy, and Human Rights**

Meeting # 11 (9/27): Chile I: From Constitutional Oligarchy to Democratic Socialism under Allende

Valenzuela, J. Samuel, and Arturo Valenzuela, “Chile: The Development, Breakdown, and Recovery of Democracy,” pp. 488-523, in Jan Knippers Black (ed.), *Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011). (Read from the beginning, on page 488, up to the end of page 509.)

Meeting # 12 (9/29). Chile II: The Pinochet Dictatorship, Neoliberalism, and Transition to Democracy

Valenzuela and Valenzuela, “Chile: The Development, Breakdown, and Recovery of Democracy,” pp. 488-523, in Jan Knippers Black (ed.), *Latin America Its Problems and Its Promise* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011). (Read the section on “The Military in Government” from pages 509 until page 516.)

Valenzuela, Arturo, “Government and Politics,” pp. 197-272, in Rex A. Hudson (ed.), *Chile: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: American University, Foreign Area Studies, 1994).)Read from page 203, starting with the section on “Imposition of Authoritarian Rule,” until the end of page 216.)

Meeting # 13 (10/4). Class cancelled

Meeting # 14 (10/6). Chile III: Democracy and Human Rights

Valenzuela and Valenzuela, “Chile: The Development, Breakdown, and Recovery of Democracy,” pp. 488-523, in Jan Knippers Black (ed.), *Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011). (Read from page 516, starting with the section on “Rebuilding Chilean Democracy,” through page 522.)

Collins, Cath with Boris Hau, “Chile: Incremental Truth, Late Justice,” pp. 126-50, in Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016).

Meeting # 15 (10/11). Chile IV: Democracy, Protest, and Constituent Assembly

Heiss, Claudia, "Latin America Erupts: Re-founding Chile." *Journal of Democracy* 32,3 (2021): 33-47.

• **Quiz # 2 (10/11)**

Meeting # 16 (10/13). Argentina I: From Constitutional Oligarchy to Populism under Perón

de Lima-Dantas, Elizabeth, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-77, in James D. Rudolph (ed.), *Argentina: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: American University, Foreign Area Studies, 1985). (Read from the section on "A New Era for Argentina, 1880-1930," on page 37, up to page 66.)

Meeting # 17 (10/18). Argentina II: Military Authoritarianism and Transition to Democracy

de Lima-Dantas, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-77, in Rudolph (ed.), *Argentina* (1985). (Read the section on "The National Reorganization Process, 1976-83," from page 66 to page 77.)

Meeting # 18 (10/20). Argentina III: Democracy, Corruption, and Economic Problems

Brown, Jonathan, *A Brief History of Argentina*. 2nd ed. (New York: Checkmark Books, 2011) Chapters 10 and 11 (pages 253-95).

Meeting # 19 (10/25). Argentina IV: Democracy and Human Rights

Balardini, Lorena, "Argentina: Regional Protagonist of Transitional Justice," pp. 50–76, in Elin Skaar, Jemima García-Godos, and Cath Collins (eds.), *Transitional Justice in Latin America: The Uneven Road from Impunity towards Accountability* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016).

Meeting # 20 (10/27). Mid-Term II (Essay Type) and Quiz # 3 (on Argentina)

**Part III. Mexico and Cuba:
Revolution, Civilian Authoritarianism, Violence, and Socialism**

Meeting # 21 (11/1). Mexico I: Personalist Dictatorship and Social Revolution

Haggerty, Richard, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-74, in Tim L. Merrill and Ramon Miró (eds.), *Mexico: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: American University, Foreign Area Studies, 1997). (Read from the section on "The Porfiriato, 1876-1910," on page 32, up to 42.)

Meeting # 22 (11/3). Mexico II: The PRI and Civilian Authoritarianism

Haggerty, "Historical Setting," pp. 1-74, in Merrill and Miró (eds.), *Mexico* (1997). (Start reading on page 42, with the section on "The Constructive Phase, 1920-40," until the section on "The Crisis Begins, 1982," on page 58.)

Meeting # 23 (11/8). Mexico III: Neoliberalism and Democratization

Haggerty, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-74, in Merrill and Miró (eds.), *Mexico* (1997). (Start reading on page 58, with the section on “The Crisis Begins, 1982,” until the end, on page 74.)
Russell, Philip L., “The Zedillo Administration, 1994-2000,” pp. 490-95, in Philip Russell, *The History of Mexico. From Pre-Conquest to Present* (New York: Routledge, 2010).

Meeting # 24 (11/10). Mexico IV: Democracy and Violence

Camp, Roderic AI, “Mexico’s Democratic Consolidation,” pp. 153-82, in Roderic AI Camp, *Mexico, What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).
Camp, Roderic AI, “Security and Violence in Mexico,” pp. 3-19, in Roderic AI Camp, *Mexico, What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

• **Quiz # 4 (on Mexico) (11/15)**

Meeting # 25 (11/15). Cuba I: Late Independence and US Influence

Suchlicki, Jaime, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-86, in Rex A. Hudson (ed.), *Cuba, A Country Study* (Washington, DC: American University, Foreign Area Studies, 2001). (Read from the section on “Toward Independence, 1868-1902” on page 23, up to page 55.)

Meeting # 26 (11/17). Cuba II: Revolution and Cold War Socialism (The 1960s)

Suchlicki, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-86, in Hudson (ed.), *Cuba* (2001). (Start reading on page 55, with the section on “Background to Revolution, 1952-59,” up to page 77.)

Meeting # 27 (11/22). Cuba III: Cold War Socialism and the End of the Castro Era

Suchlicki, “Historical Setting,” pp. 1-86, in Hudson (ed.), *Cuba* (2001). (Start reading on page 77, with the section on “Institutionalization,” until page 86.)

Meeting # 28 (11/24): No class. Thanksgiving Holiday

Meeting # 29 (11/29). Cuba IV: Post-Castro Cuba and the Prospects of Democracy

Sullivan, Mark P., “Cuba: U.S. Policy in the 116th Congress and Through the Trump Administration,” *CRS Report*, January 22, 2021, 74 pages. (Start reading on page 3, with the section on “Cuba’s Political and Economic Environment,” until the end of page 33.)
Class debate

• **Quiz # 5 (on Cuba) (12/1)**

Meeting # 30 (12/1): A Recapitulation

***** Final Exam: Monday, December 13, 2:00-4:00 p.m. *****

Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>.

This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | *Title IX* – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.