

## **Introduction to Latin American Politics CPO 3303**

Professor Anderson  
Anderson 318

Meeting time: MWF 11:45-12:35

Office hours: Mon 1:45-2:45 and Wed 1:45-3:45

### **Purpose of the Course**

This is an introductory course in Latin American Politics. We will consider several of the most important countries of the region and discuss current politics, including their ongoing development of democracy. The class will proceed using lectures and discussion sections. In the first class we will also discuss extra credit presentations in class.

### **Requirements**

We will have two required essay exams during the course of the semester and one final think paper that requires you to talk about the course material as a whole. Additionally, we may have one optional exam during the semester, depending upon the sentiment of the class. Each of the two required exams during the semester is worth 25% of your grade; the final paper is worth 40% of your grade. Class attendance and participation will count for 10% of your grade. If we have an optional exam the weight of each exam will be adjusted accordingly.

Extra Credit. There are several options for extra credit in this class. These involve the opportunity to do some extra reading or to view a movie and report on it to the class. We will also discuss the possibility of inserting a special section on the new Pope. This would be a section to be researched and presented by a small group of students for extra credit for this class. If you are interested in extra credit please raise your hand when we get to this discussion.

Depending upon the progress of this class we may have a reading and research day in October or early November. You could use that day to catch up on your reading or to watch one or more of the multiple movies that pertain to understanding Latin American politics or to start your work on the final think paper.

### **Books**

Thomas Skidmore, *Modern Latin America*  
Harry Vanden, *The Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*  
Roderic Al Camp, *Politics in Mexico: The Decline of Authoritarianism*  
Leslie Anderson and Lawrence Dodd, *Learning Democracy*  
Leslie Anderson, *Social Capital in Developing Democracies*  
Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold, *Dragon in the Tropics, Hugo Chavez and the Political Economy of Revolution*

### **Class date**

August 22

### **Reading**

first class: pass out syllabus

August 24-26

Skidmore Chapter 2  
Vanden Chapter 3

August 29

Skidmore Chap 13 and 14

Vanden Chapter 5, 6  
Vanden Chapter 8

August 31  
and September 2 No class annual conference, American Political Science Association,  
Philadelphia

September 7-14                   **Mexico**  
Skidmore, Chapter 3  
Camp, entire book

September 16                   First Essay Exam

September 19-Oct 7           **Argentina**  
Anderson, Read Chapters on Argentina

Possible Extra Credit Assignment Movies:

Evita and give a class report on this movie  
The Official Story  
Cautiva  
Camila  
La Noche de los Lapises

October 10-28                   **Nicaragua**  
Anderson Dodd, entire book  
Anderson, read Chapters on Nicaragua  
Oct 28                           **Exam # 2 after Nicaragua**

Possible Extra Credit Movies: Under Fire, Nick Nolte

October 31-November 18      **Venezuela**  
Corrales, entire book  
continue Corrales

November 21-23               Catch up time and overview

November 25                   Thanksgiving break - no class

November 28-Dec 2           Overview classes, preparation for final think paper. I want you to  
step back now and think about the bigger picture.

December 7                   Final Think Paper