

## **Problems in Latin American Politics: Human Rights and Democracy**

**CPO 4306/LAS 4935**

Professor Anderson

Anderson 318

Office hours: Thursday 10:30-1:30

Meeting time: Tues 2-3; Thurs 3

or Tues 8:30-10:25 & Thurs 9:30-10:25

### **Purpose of the Course**

This is an advanced undergraduate class on human rights. It is about the process of developing a democracy in the aftermath of gross human rights violations. It is about the relationship between the development of democracy and a recent past that was cruel, inhumane, authoritarian and extreme. How is it possible for democracy to develop under such circumstances? What kinds of questions must citizens and leaders face in constructing their new society? What choices do they have and what constraints inhibit their choices? What tradeoffs do they see between different alternatives? Is democracy possible after such a past? If so, what will it look like? These are the questions of this course.

This problem of developing democracy after human rights violations concerns a large number of Latin American countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and most of Central America. Yet Latin America confronts this issue after several European nations also dealt with the same issue and while many African countries face the same situation. Therefore we will view the Latin American cases comparatively. We begin with Germany where a nation, for the first time, was forced to place its authoritarian regime on trial. We continue with the Latin American cases and then look also at South Africa. We finish the course by returning to Europe where we study Spain. All of these countries have tried to construct a democracy in the aftermath of gross human rights violations and all have had different levels of success in that effort. All of these countries faced the questions listed above when they moved toward democracy. Each chose a slightly different approach to the task.

### **Requirements**

We will have two essay exams in this course, during the course of the semester and one final think paper. Each of the two exams is worth 25% of your grade; the final think paper is worth 40% of your grade. Class attendance and participation via zoom will count for 10% of your grade.

### **Required books and Coursepack**

The first readings for this course are from the Coursepack: *The Morality of Truth Commissions*, Two sections, pp 3-67 and 189-210, about 87 pages.

You can buy a hard copy coursepack or an epack (your preference). The hard copy allows you to make notes on the pages. The epack: can be ordered online from Target Copy. Go to the Target Copy website. Go to the Coursepacks feature on Target website, write in the course number and the pack will come up. You pay by a credit card. The last time I taught this course the cost was \$24 plus tax.

Books: Purchase on line or use Reserve list at Smathers West.

Norbert Frei, *Adenauer's Germany and the Nazi Past*, Columbia University Press, 2001  
 Richard Wilson, *The Politics of Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa*, Cambridge University Press, 2001  
 Cath Collins, *Post-Transitional Justice: Human Rights Trials in Chile and El Salvador*, Penn State Press, 2010  
 Elisabeth Jean Wood, *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*, Cambridge University Press, 2000  
 Leslie Anderson, *Democratization By Institutions: Argentina's Transition Years in Comparative Perspective*, Michigan, 2016  
 Omar G. Encarnacion, *Democracy Without Justice in Spain: The Politics of Forgetting*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014

<b>Class date</b>	<b>Reading</b>
September 1	first class
September 3	coursepack materials from Target Copy about 87 pages, see instructions above
<b>Part I: Germany</b>	<b>Europe: The first human rights trials</b>
September 8	Frei, entire book
September 10-25	finish Frei
September 29	review for first essay exam; Essay exam # 1 here
<b>Part II: Latin America</b>	<b>Latin America: Three examples of varying degrees of success</b>
October 1-8	Argentina: Read Anderson, 2016 Chapter 3
October 13-22	Chile: Read Collins, entire book
October 27-November 5	El Salvador: Read Wood, 2003, entire book
November 10	review Latin American cases and Second Essay exam on Latin American cases
<b>Part III: South Africa</b>	<b>A Leading African Example</b>
November 12-19	South Africa: Read Wood, 2000 and Wilson, entire book
<b>Part IV:</b>	<b>A Return to Europe: The Case of Spain</b>
November 24	Encarnacion, entire book
November 26	no class: Thanksgiving
December 1-2	Overview of cases, Summary, Prepare for Final Think Paper
December 9	Final Think Paper