

Introduction to Latin American Politics

CPO 3303

Professor Anderson

Anderson 318

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:45-2:45

Thursday 9:30-10:30 (am)

Meeting time: Tues 5-6; Thurs 6

or Tues 11:45-1:40 & Thurs 12:44-1:40

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 three essay exams in this course, two during the course of the semester and one as a final exam. Each of the first two exams is worth 25% of your grade; the final is worth 40% of your grade. Class attendance and participation will count for 10% of your grade.

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.

Books

Thomas Skidmore, Modern Latin America

THarry 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 Miochael Penfold, Dragon in the Tropics, Hugo Chavez and the Political Economy of Revolution

Class date

January 6

Reading

first class: pass out syllabus

January 8

Skidmore Chapter 2

Vanden Chapter 3

January 13-15

Skidmore Chap 13 and 14

Vanden Chapter 5, 6

January 20

Vanden Chapter 8

possible special report on the poetry of Rigobertu Menchu

January 22-Feb 10	Mexico Skidmore, Chapter 3 Camp, entire book
Feb 12	First Essay Exam
Feb 17-March 12	Argentina Anderson, Read Chapters on Argentina
Extra Credit Assigment:	Watch Evita and give a class report on this movie Watch The Official Story and give a class report on this movie
March 2-6	Spring Break
March 17-April 2	Nicaragua Anderson Dodd, entire book Anderson, read Chapters on Nicaragua
Extra Credit:	Watch the Nick Nolte Movie and give a class report on this movie
April 7-16	Venezuela Corrales, entire book
April 21	Review for Exam