

CPO 6307/LAS 6938
Latin American Politics
Professor Leslie Anderson
Fall, 2019

Meeting time: Tuesday
Period 8-10 of 3 pm to 6 pm

Office Hours: tentatively
scheduled as follows:
T 1:45-2:35; Th 11:50-12:50
and 1:45-2:45

In the past thirty years the study of Latin America has moved from being an object of disdain in political science to becoming one of the most relevant, exciting and rewarding areas that we can study. In that same time period politics in Latin America has moved from being the study of marginality to the study of the most central questions in political science. Scholarship on Latin America has moved from being the study of dictatorship, repression, popular protest and revolution to asking many of the questions currently of interest in Western Europe and the United States: questions about democracy, democratic survivability, democratization and democratic decline, elections and electoral rules, institutions, and social capital. This syllabus will take you through this exciting metamorphosis from marginality to centrality in political science. Along the way we will learn how the study of Latin America is also the study of many of the key contemporary conversations in political science.

In this course you are required to come to class, do the readings in preparation for class, and participate in class discussions. Additionally, I ask you to teach the materials for one week. We will divide the weeks up in the first two class sessions. Teaching your assigned materials is part of your participation in this class. You will receive a participation grade.

Finally, I would like you to write a research paper of about 25-30 pages on any topic from this course that also fits with your research interests. Your term paper will be a central part of the work that you do for this course. Choose a topic on the syllabus where you would like to write your paper. Then here is your assignment: Early in the semester, I will assign you a partner or you can pick your own partner. That person will be responsible for reviewing your work and giving you feedback. That feedback will be done in class after you do your initial presentation. We will start with a brief presentation by each student on their paper topic. This should be no more than a 10 minute presentation. Your partner will then comment on the potential of your project and on any problems they see with the intended project. Later in the semester you will present your paper more fully to the class followed by a critique from your partner in the same class session. At the end of the semester you will turn in the paper as your final requirement for the course. Each partner is responsible for reading the work of the other partner and for offering constructive criticism. Take a look at the conversations we cover and decide where you want to put your paper.

Readings

James Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant*, Yale, 1976 \$4

Samuel Popkin, *The Rational Peasant*, 1979 \$12

Anderson, *The Political Ecology of the Modern Peasant*, Hopkins, 1994 \$4

Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe Schmitter, Laurence Whitehead eds., *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America* about \$7

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about* \$14
 Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Princeton, 1994 \$3-5
 Leslie Anderson, *Social Capital in Developing Democracies*, Cambridge 2010. \$4
 Fiorina, Morris, *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*, Yale, 1981. \$26
 Sniderman, Paul, Richard Brody, and Philip Tetlock, *Reasoning and Choice: Exploration in Political Psychology*, \$4
 Key, V.O. "A Theory of Critical Elections," *Journal of Politics*, 1955 17:3-18.
 Anderson, Leslie and Lawrence C. Dodd, *Learning Democracy: Citizen Engagement and Electoral Choice in Nicaragua, 1990-2001*. Chicago, 2005 \$4
 McClintock, Cynthia, *Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018. \$24
 Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers* \$7
 Anderson, *Democratization by Institutions* \$9
 Also read: Critical Dialogue: Anderson and McClintock, *Perspectives on Politics*, December, 2018
 Edward Gibson, *Boundary Control*, Cambridge, 2012 \$6
 Gibson, Edward, "Subnational Authoritarianism in Democratic Countries," *World Politics* Vol 58, # 1, October, 2005, 101-132.
 Mickey, Robert, *Paths Out of Dixie*, Princeton, 2015, \$28
 Bunce, Valerie and Sharon Wolchik, *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries*, Cambridge, 2011 \$2
 Anderson, Leslie and Corrado, Anibal "Many Small Venezuelas: Subnational Authoritarianism in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina," ms in progress

That was then:

Latin American studies in the 1980s: Social movements, revolution, peasants, and dictatorship

August 20: 1st class, pass out syllabus, answer questions pertinent to whether you want to take the class Drop add period ends Friday, this class is your only chance to decide whether you want to take this course.

August 27: The Politics of the Marginalized

James Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant*, Yale, 1976
 Samuel Popkin, *The Rational Peasant*, 1979
 Anderson, *The Political Ecology of the Modern Peasant*, Hopkins, 1994

Authoritarianism and Democratic Transition

September 3

Guillermo O'Donnell, Philippe Schmitter, Laurence Whitehead eds., *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America* about

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about*

This is now: Politics normalizes and mobilizes. Individuals learn to cooperate, trust, work together, ... or not...

Social Capital

September 10

Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work*, Princeton, 1994 \$3-5

Leslie Anderson, *Social Capital in Developing Democracies*, Cambridge 2010. \$4

Elections and Electoral rules Politics formalizes into established channels that exist in older democracies: elections (followed by institutions)

September 17 and 24

Fiorina, Morris, *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*, Yale, 1981

Sniderman, Paul, Richard Brody, and Philip Tetlock, *Reasoning and Choice: Exploration in Political Psychology*,

Key, V.O. "A Theory of Critical Elections," *Journal of Politics*, 1955 17:3-18.

Anderson, Leslie and Lawrence C. Dodd, *Learning Democracy: Citizen Engagement and Electoral Choice in Nicaragua, 1990-2001*. Chicago, 2005

Week 7

McClintock, Cynthia, *Electoral Rules and Democracy in Latin America*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018.

The Role of Institutions in Democracy and Democratization: Politics institutionalizes.

October 1 and 8

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*

read Hamilton on the executive, Madison on the legislature

Anderson, *Democratization by Institutions*

Also read: Critical Dialogue: Anderson and McClintock, *Perspectives on Politics*, December, 2018

But Authoritarianism Remains: Subnational Politics

October 15 and 22

Edward Gibson, *Boundary Control*, Cambridge, 2012 \$6

Gibson, Edward, "Subnational Authoritarianism in Democratic Countries," *World Politics* Vol 58, # 1, October, 2005, 101-132.

Mickey, Robert, *Paths Out of Dixie*, Princeton, 2015, \$28

Anderson, Leslie and Corrado, Anibal "Many Small Venezuelas: Subnational Authoritarianism in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina," ms in progress

And Authoritarianism Returns: Backsliding, Hybrid Regimes, Authoritarianism
Venezuela and Nicaragua

October 29 and November 5

(I will be out of town this week. Northeastern Political Science Association. We may cancel class on November 5. Let's see how we are doing on the schedule)

Bunce, Val and Sharon Wolchik, *Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Postcommunist Countries*
Venezuela: talk about it, almost nothing is out as of April, 2019.

Anderson, Dodd, Park, unpublished ms.

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=18&sid=b9b08213-25e9-4128-acb4-be29d3fbe201%40sessionmgr103>

November 12, 19, 26, December 3

Final weeks: present any final papers that have not been presented so far

Final paper due: last week of classes or the next week.