

**POLS 3322 Fall 2009**

**T-Th 2:30-4:00**

**Room: AH 203**

**Professor Iñaki Sagarzazu**

**Office Hours: Monday 2:30-3:30 PGH 426**

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## **Introduction to Latin American Politics**

In this course we will focus on where Latin American countries are today, and how they evolved from their authoritarian past to the present. The political landscape of the region has changed dramatically in the last twenty years, as most authoritarian regimes in Latin America gave way to democratic ones. Simultaneously, the region has experienced increasing economic turmoil, providing new challenges to the political sustainability of these emerging democracies. In this course we will explore issues of democratic representation and democratic governance and learn about the challenges that authoritarian legacies present to democratic Latin America.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Student will master basic concepts, theories and methods pertaining to the comparative study of Latin America's political institutions.
- Students will write an original discussion paper describing how our understanding of Latin American politics has changed over time.
- Students will be able to understand how the study of Latin American politics fits within the field of Political Science in general.

### **Structure of the Course and Evaluation**

The first part of the course will be dedicated to explore different Latin American countries with an aim to understand the evolution from authoritarianism to democracy and their current democratic system. In the second part of the course we will focus on the broad aspect of Latin American politics paying special attention at where is Latin America today. Discussions will cover topics such as authoritarianism and democratization, the emergence and evolution of the party systems, executive-legislative relations, decentralization, clientelism, and accountability.

Course meetings will combine the format of lectures and discussion sessions. Students are expected to attend all lectures, do all the assigned readings for the week, and participate in class discussion. During the first half every student will be required to select a country of Latin America to do specific readings and research. Grading will result from a midterm exam, a final exam and a short paper with a review of one of two possible books.

- Class Attendance and Participation 10%
- Midterm Exam 35%
- Final Paper 20%
- Final Exam 35%

## Academic Honesty

Please familiarize yourself with the academic honesty policy of the University of Houston (<http://www.uh.edu/dos/hdbk/acad/achonpol.html>). Absolutely no form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. Incidents of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and appropriate steps to remove that person from the program will be taken.

## ADA Statement

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact UH's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at (713) 743-5400.

## Blackboard Vista

Many, if not all, of the activities and resources for this class will be done through Blackboard Vista. Please make sure your Blackboard Vista account is active and with the class in it by Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup>.

To access the class website, direct your web browser to: <http://www.uh.edu/webct> and click on the blue BLACKBOARD Vista button. Enter your PeopleSoft ID and password and then select this class from the list:

**POLS3322 - 2009FA-33427-INTRO LATIN-AM POLITICS Section Instructor: Inaki Sagarzazu**

If you do not know your Blackboard Vista password, please call 713-743-1411 or stop by the TSS Help Desk in Hoffman Hall Room 116.

## Required Books:

Charles H Blake. 2008. *Politics in Latin America* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin (PiLA)

## One book to choose from:

1. Eduardo Galeano. *Open veins of Latin America*
2. Gabriel Garcia Márquez. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
3. Mario Vargas Llosa. *The Feast of the Goat*

**All other readings will be available electronically (through WebCT) or on reserve at the library.**

**| Week 1 – August 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Introduction**

Pages XI & XII (Preface) of PiLA and Chapters 1 through 4.

**Week 2 – September 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Argentina**

PiLA. Chapter on Argentina.

Calvo, Ernesto, and M. Victoria Murillo. 2004. "Who Delivers? Partisan Clients in the Argentine Electoral Market." *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (4):742-57.

Movie: *La historia oficial – The official story*

**Week 3 – September 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Brasil**

PiLA. Chapter on Brazil.

Baker, Ames, and Renno. 2006. "Context and Campaign Volatility in New Democracies: Networks and Neighborhoods in Brazil's 2002 Elections", *American Journal of Political Science*, 50(2):382-399.

Movie: *Cidade de Deus - City of God*

**Week 4 – September 15<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Venezuela**

PiLA. Chapter on Venezuela.

Lombardi, John. 2003. "Prologue: Venezuela's Permanent Dilemma" In *Venezuelan Politics in the Chavez Era*, ed. S. Ellner and D. Hellinger. London: Lynne Rienner Publisher, pp 1-6

Ellner, Steve. 2003. "Introduction: The Search for Explanations" In *Venezuelan Politics in the Chavez Era*, ed. S. Ellner and D. Hellinger. London: Lynne Rienner Publisher, pp 7-26

Movie: *Puedo hablar - May I speak?*

**Week 5 – September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Mexico**

PiLA. Chapter on Mexico.

Hiskey, J. and Bowler, S. 2005. Local Context and Democratization in Mexico. *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 49(1), Pp. 57–71

Movie: *La Ley de Herodes - Herod's Law*.

**Week 6 – September 29<sup>th</sup> & October 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Central America**

PiLA. Chapter on Guatemala.

Skidmore, Thomas & Peter Smith. 2005. *Modern Latin America*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Chapter 11 – Central America: Colonialism, Dictatorship, and Revolution

*Movie: Voces Inocentes - Innocent Voices.*

**Week 7 – October 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

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Review and Midterm Examination [CLASS Testing center AH-101]

**Week 8 – October 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Authoritarianism**

O'Donnell and Schmitter. 1985. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions*. John Hopkins.

Corrales, Javier & Michael Penfold-Becerra. 2007. “Venezuela: Crowding Out the Opposition” *Journal of Democracy*. Vol. 18(2). Pp 99-113

*Movie: La Revolucion no sera transmitida - The revolution will not be televised.*

**Week 9 – October 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Democratization**

Mainwaring and Perez-Linan. 2005 “Latin American Democratization since 1978: Democratic transitions, Breakdowns, and Erosions” in Hagopian F. & Mainwaring S. Eds. *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, New York.

Valenzuela, A. 2004. Latin American Presidencies Interrupted. *Journal of Democracy*. Vol 15(4)

**Week 10 – October 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Party Systems**

Snyder Richard & David Samuels. 2001. Devaluing the vote. *Journal of Democracy*. Vol 12(1)

Aleman, Eduardo & Marisa Kellam. 2008. “The nationalization of electoral change in the Americas” *Electoral Studies* 27, pp. 193-212

**Week 11 – November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Institutions**

Corrales, Javier. 2000. "Presidents, Ruling Parties, and Party Rules: A Theory on the Politics of Economic Reform in Latin America" *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 32(2), pp. 127-149

Cox, Gary W. & Scott Morgenstern. 2001. "Latin America's Reactive Assemblies and Proactive Presidents" *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 33(2), pp. 171-189

**Week 12 - November 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Decentralization**

Harbers, Imke. Forthcoming. "Decentralization and the Development of Nationalized Party Systems in New Democracies: Evidence from Latin America" *Comparative Political Studies*

Falleti, Tulia. 2005. "A Sequential Theory of Decentralization: Latin American Cases in Comparative Perspective" *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 99 (3), 327-346.

**Week 13 – November 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Clientelism & Accountability**

Penfold-Becerra, Michael. 2007. "Clientelism and Social Funds: Evidence from Chávez's Misiones." *Latin American Politics & Society* 49 (4):63-84.

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1998. "Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies," *Journal of Democracy* 9(3): 112-126.

**Week 14 – November 24<sup>th</sup>**

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Catch up and review.

No class on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving

**Week 15 – December 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

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Discussion and book presentations

**Week 17 – December 15<sup>th</sup> \*\*\***

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Final Exam [*CLASS Testing center AH-101*]

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

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Students will need to reserve a testing time and space **FOR ALL EXAMS** by visiting the CLASS ETC website at [http://www.class.uh.edu/classidt/etc/etc\\_res/students/index.php](http://www.class.uh.edu/classidt/etc/etc_res/students/index.php)

Exams are posted on the CLASS ETC reservation software one month in advance. Students are responsible for remembering to make a reservation. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE ETC WITHOUT A VALID RESERVATION OR PICTURE ID** (a picture ID consists of a valid UH Student ID Card or a Government Issued ID, Drivers License or Passport.) There will be no exceptions!