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Government 302
Wesleyan University
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Office Hours:
Tues., 2:00-4:00 PM
or by appointment

Class Meetings:
TT 10:30 -11:50 AM
PAC 422

Latin American Politics

This course explores democracy, revolution, economic development, and mortality decline in Latin America. In the first part of the course we analyze the emergence, breakdown, and current state of democracy in Argentina and Brazil. In the second we examine the causes and consequences of revolution in Cuba and Nicaragua. In each part of the course we assess the progress each country has made toward creating a more affluent, educated, healthy, and equitable society.

Our initial task is to familiarize ourselves with the concepts of democracy, democratic consolidation, and democratic deepening. Using case studies and comparative analyses, we then address the following questions: (1) How deeply was democracy implanted in Argentina and Brazil during the first half of the twentieth century? (2) Why did democracy break down in these countries during the 1960s and 1970s, and why was it restored in the 1980s? (3) How stable and democratic were the civilian regimes that emerged in each country in the wake of authoritarian rule, and have they since become consolidated? (4) Why did Brazil outpace Argentina from 1960 to the present at raising life expectancy and reducing infant mortality?

The second section of the course examines the nature of revolution and assesses its causes and consequences. Our cases are the Cuban Revolution, which ousted the Batista government in 1959, and the Nicaraguan Revolution, which overthrew the Somoza dynasty in 1979. We examine the causes of each revolution; the quality of democracy in each revolutionary regime; the degree to which each revolution generated sustainable economic growth and reduced avoidable mortality; and the sources and possible outcomes of each revolution's current challenges.

Course Requirements

The course grade will be based on two examinations, a research design, a final paper, and class participation.

Summary of Due Dates and Final Grade Weightings

First Exam	Oct 16 (Th)	25%
Research Design	Nov 6 (Th)	15%
Second Exam	Dec 4 (Th)	25%
Term Paper	Dec 15 (Mo)	25%
Class Participation		10%

All students must take the examinations, and hand in the research design and term paper, at the date and time indicated on this syllabus. Please do not request a personal exemption from this policy except in the event of a grave medical or family emergency.

Ground Rules

- (1) A single instance of cheating or plagiarism will provide sufficient grounds for a grade of "F" in the entire course, not just on the assignment on which the cheating or plagiarism took place.
- (2) Please do not bring cellular phones, laptop computers, or other potentially disruptive or distracting electronic devices into the classroom.

Examinations

The first exam -- closed-book, closed-note -- will be given during the class period on Thursday, October 16. It will cover the material to date. The second exam -- again closed-book, closed-note -- will be given during the class period on Thursday, December 4. It will stress the material from the second half of the course, but may require you to draw on earlier material.

Research Project

The research project must involve democracy, revolution, and/or human development in a Latin American country, or Latin American countries, of your choice. See me for suggestions about topics, bibliography, or an assessment of whether your project is feasible.

The research project includes a research design (due Nov. 6) and a term paper (due Dec. 15). The research design should be submitted in person at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 6. The term paper should be stamped by the administrative assistant in the Government Department office by 3:00 P.M. on Monday, December 15.

Research Design

The research design is a summary of ideas for your term paper. It should be word processed and should contain the following components:

1. A title that captures the argument to be made or question to be answered. ("Race Relations in Socialist Cuba: Progress or Stagnation?" beats "Race Relations in Socialist Cuba.")
2. One-paragraph describing the question you will answer and/or argument you will make.
3. One paragraph explaining the theoretical and/or practical significance of your topic.
4. A list of the steps by which you will answer your question or make your argument. Think of these steps as the headings and subheadings of the different sections of your paper. Stay focused: in particular, avoid long background descriptions of national history.
5. A bibliography consisting of six or more high-quality books, book chapters, and/or articles you have already read or skimmed. Except for online academic journals, internet sources don't count. Correct bibliography form is required. Go to the library home page <<http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr>>, click on "reference tools," then click on "Citing web, paper, and other sources." Any standard format -- APA, MLA, Turabian -- is fine.
6. A one-paragraph statement, for each of the three most promising sources in your bibliography, of how you will use the information and/or arguments that source contains in writing your final paper.

Research Paper

The research paper is a 10-12 page expansion of the research design.

Finding sources

For books and chapters in books, search the CTW online catalog. For a much broader range of sources, try out the "Indexes and Databases" on the library web page. Olin will have many of the materials you find in these databases, but some materials may be available only via interlibrary loan. Requests from interlibrary loan take from 2 days to 2 weeks to arrive, so search well in advance. You can also find sources by following up footnotes or asking a reference librarian.

Class Participation

Class participation means coming to all the classes, on time, and turning in the daily file card (see below). Doing all of the reading carefully and on time is crucial to your grasp of the lectures and to the quality of class discussion. Class participation, which is measured primarily (but not exclusively) by your performance on the file cards, normally counts for 10 percent of the final grade. Repeated absences or behavior that repeatedly disrupts the class (e.g., cell phone, walking out in the middle of the class session) will result in a very low class participation grade that may count at my discretion for up to 100 percent of the course grade. Please bear this policy in mind when deciding whether to take this course.

File-Card Requirement

1. At the beginning of each class (except on days when the research design is due or exams are given) please hand me, in person, a 3 x 5 white-colored file card with your name and the date on one side. On the other side of the file card, please include from the day's readings (a) one quotation, noting the author and page number, that you think raises a particularly interesting issue; and (b) one comment on your quotation.
2. No file cards will be accepted after 10:35 AM for any reason whatsoever. You may not turn in a file card if you do not attend class. No one may turn in a file card for anyone else. Your quotation and comment should both fit on one side of a single file card. Your writing must be easily legible.
3. File cards will not be returned to you, but each will be recorded as satisfactory, good, or excellent according to how carefully and thoughtfully it seems to have been done. At the end of the semester I shall assign each student a class participation grade based heavily, although not entirely, on the file card marks. If you want to know at any time how you are doing on class participation, feel free to contact me.

Course Readings

All readings for the course are on reserve in paper and electronic formats. Two paper copies of each reading are available at the reserve desk in Olin. Electronic copies can be accessed by proceeding through the seven steps listed below.

1. Go to the library homepage, <http://www.wesleyan.edu/libr/>.
2. Under RESERVES, click on "Items Online - ERes"
3. Type in govt302 (no spaces, case-insensitive)
4. Click on the Course Number (highlighted in blue)
5. Enter the password (I'll reveal it verbally in class) and click "accept"
6. The readings are in folders: "Argentina," "Brazil," "Cuba," or "Nicaragua"
7. Open up the folder that contains the reading you're looking for, and click on it.

Summary of Course Schedule

Tu Sep 2	Overview of the Course
Th Sep 4	Conceptualizing and Consolidating Democracy
Tu Sep 9	Argentina: Geography and History
Th Sep 11	Argentina: Perón and Peronism
Tu Sep 16	Argentina: Political and Economic Instability
Th Sep 18	Argentina: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Tu Sep 23	Argentina: Contemporary Politics
Th Sep 25	Argentina: Social Policies and Human Development
Tu Sep 30	Brazil: Geography and History
Th Oct 2	Brazil: Social Structure and Politics
Tu Oct 7	Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Th Oct 9	Brazil: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 14	Brazil: Social Policies and Human Development
Th Oct 16	First Examination
Tu Oct 21	The Nature and Causes of Revolution
Th Oct 23	Cuba: The Causes of Revolution
Th Oct 30	Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959?
Tu Nov 4	Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic?
Th Nov 6	Cuba: In the Shadow of Doubt Research Design Due
Tu Nov 11	Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989
Th Nov 13	Cuba: Contemporary Politics
Tu Nov 18	Nicaragua: The Causes of Revolution
Th Nov 20	Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic?
Tu Nov 25	Nicaragua: Did Life Improve under the FSLN?
Tu Dec 2	Nicaragua: Life after the Sandinistas
Th Dec 4	Second Examination
Mo Dec 15	Term Paper Due

TOPICS AND READINGS

Tu Sep 2 Overview of the Course

No assigned reading.

Th Sep 4 Conceptualizing and Consolidating Democracy (54 pp.)

Dahl, Robert. On Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998, 35-43, 83-99.

Schedler, Andreas. "What is Democratic Consolidation?" Journal of Democracy 9 No. 2 (April 1998), 91-107.

O'Donnell, Guillermo. "Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies." Journal of Democracy 9 No. 3 (July 1998), 112-126. **Caution: Another O'Donnell reading is assigned for Sep. 16.**

Tu Sep 9 Argentina: Geography and History (47 pp.).

McGuire, James W. "Political Parties and Democracy in Argentina." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995, 200-246. **Caution: Another McGuire reading is assigned for Sep. 25.**

Th Sep 11 Argentina: Perón and Peronism (32 pp.)

Winn, Peter. "A Second Independence?" Chap. 4 of Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean. New York: Pantheon, 1992, 123-154.

Tu Sep 16 Argentina: Political and Economic Instability (31 pp.)

O'Donnell, Guillermo. "State and Alliances in Argentina, 1955-1976." Journal of Development Studies 15 No. 1 (October 1978), 3-33. **Caution: Another O'Donnell reading is assigned for Sep. 4.**

Th Sep 18 Argentina: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy (45 pp.)

Graziano, Frank. "The Dirty War in Thematic Context." Chap. 1 of Divine Violence: Spectacle, Psychosexuality, and Radical Christianity in the Argentine "Dirty War." Boulder: Westview Press, 1992, 15-59.

Tu Sep 23 Argentina: Contemporary Politics (51 pp.)

Levitsky, Steven. "Argentina: Democratic Survival Amidst Economic Failure." Chapter 2 in Frances Hagopian and Scott P. Mainwaring, The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks. Cambridge, UK and New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 63-89.

Grugel, Jean, and María Pía Riggirozzi. "The Return of the State in Argentina." International Affairs 83 No. 1 (January 2007), 87-107.

Levitsky, Steven, and María Victoria Murillo (2008). "Argentina: From Kirchner to Kirchner." Journal of Democracy 19 No. 2 (April), 16-30.

Th Sep 25 Argentina: Social Policies and Human Development (34 pp.)

McGuire, James W.. "Politics, Policy, and Mortality Decline in Argentina." Adapted from Chapter 5 of "Politics, Policy, and Mortality Decline in East Asia and Latin America." Book ms., Wesleyan University, August 2008. **Caution: Another McGuire reading was assigned for Sep. 9.**

Tu Sep 30 Brazil: Geography and History (54 pp.)

Bethell, Leslie. "Politics in Brazil: From Elections without Democracy to Democracy without Citizenship." Daedalus 129 No. 2 (Spring 2000), 1-27.

Carvalho, José Murilo de. "Dreams Come Untrue." Daedalus 129 No. 2 (Spring 2000), 57-82.

Th Oct 2 Brazil: Social Structure and Politics (43 pp.)

Mainwaring, Scott. "Patronage, Clientelism, and Patrimonialism." Chapter 6 in Mainwaring, Rethinking Party Systems in the Third Wave of Democratization: The Brazilian Case. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1999, 176-218. Also available through the electronic card catalog as an online book.

Tu Oct 7 Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy (70 pp.)

Htun, Mala. "From 'Racial Democracy' to Affirmative Action: Changing State Policy on Race in Brazil." Latin American Research Review 39 No.1 (February 2004), 60-89.

Patai, Daphne. "Vera." In Patai, ed., Brazilian Women Speak. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1988, 79-108.

Th Oct 9 Brazil: Contemporary Politics (61 pp.)

Weyland, Kurt. "The Growing Sustainability of Brazil's Low-Quality Democracy." Chapter 3 in Frances Hagopian and Scott P. Mainwaring, The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks. Cambridge, UK and New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 90-120.

Hunter, Wendy A., and Timothy J. Power. "Rewarding Lula: Executive Power, Social Policy, and the Brazilian Elections of 2006." Latin American Politics and Society 49 No. 1 (Spring 2007), 1-30.

Tu Oct 14 Brazil: Social Policies and Human Development (21 pp.)

Hall, Anthony. "From *Fome Zero* to *Bolsa Família*: Social Policies and Poverty Alleviation under Lula." Journal of Latin American Studies 38 No. 4 (November 2006), 689-709.

Th Oct 16 **First Examination**

No additional readings.

Tu Oct 21 The Nature and Causes of Revolution (30 pp.)

Crahan, Margaret E., and Peter H. Smith. "The State of Revolution." In Alfred Stepan, ed., Americas: New Interpretive Essays. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992, 79-108.

Th Oct 23 Cuba: The Causes of Revolution (36 pp.)

Wolf, Eric. "Cuba." In Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century. New York: Harper Colophon, 1969, 251-273.

Th Oct 30 Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959? (54 pp.)

Domínguez, Jorge. "Cuba Since 1959." In Leslie Bethell, ed., Cuba: A Short History. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 95-148.

Tu Nov 4 Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic? (47 pp.)

Ritter, Archibald R. M. "The Organs of People's Power and the Communist Party: The Nature of Cuban Democracy." In Sandor Halebsky and John M. Kirk, eds., Cuba: Twenty-Five Years of Revolution, 1959-1984. New York: Praeger, 1985, 270-290.

Luciak, Ilja. "The Cuban Political System: Competing Visions of Democracy." Chapter 3 of Ilja Luciak, Gender and Democracy in Cuba. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2007, 37-62

Th Nov 6 Cuba: In the Shadow of Doubt

No readings. **Research Design Due**

Tu Nov 11 Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989 (40 pp.)

Morris, Emily. "How Exceptional is the Cuban Economy?" Chapter 3 in Bert Hoffman and Laurence Whitehead, eds., Debating Cuban Exceptionalism. Houndmills, Basingstoke and New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, 37-59.

de la Fuente, Alejandro. "Recreating Racism: Race and Discrimination in Cuba's Special Period." In Philip Brenner et al., eds., A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Recreating the Revolution. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008.

Th Nov 13 Cuba: Contemporary Politics (31 pp.)

LeoGrande, William M. "The 'Single Party of the Cuban Nation' Faces the Future." In Max Azicri and Elsie Deal, eds., Cuban Socialism in a New Century: Adversity, Survival, and Renewal. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2004, 183-205.

Corrales, Javier. "Cuba After Fidel." Current History 104 No. 679 (February 2005), 69-76.

Tu Nov 18 Nicaragua: The Causes of Revolution (60 pp.)

Dix, Robert. "Why Revolutions Succeed and Fail." Polity 16 No. 3 (Spring 1984), 423-446.

Gilbert, Dennis. Sandinistas. Cambridge MA: Basil Blackwell, 1988, 1-16, 31-36.

Diederich, Bernard. Somoza. New York: E. P. Dutton, 1981. Chap. 6, "Beginning in Blood," 79-92.

Th Nov 20 Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic? (64 pp.)

Kinzer, Stephen. "Action Democracy." Chap. 15 of Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1991, 222-250.

LASA (Latin American Studies Association). "The Electoral Process in Nicaragua: Domestic and International Influences." In Peter Rosset and John Vandermeer, eds., Nicaragua: Unfinished Revolution. New York: Grove Press, 1986, 73-107.

Tu Nov 25 Nicaragua: Did Life Improve under the FSLN? (49 pp.)

Linfield, Michael. "Human Rights." In Thomas Walker, ed., Revolution and Counterrevolution in Nicaragua. Boulder: Westview Press, 1991, 275-294.

Lancaster, Roger N. Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992, 1-21.

Garfield, Richard M. "War-Related Changes in Health and Health Services in Nicaragua." Social Science & Medicine 28 No. 7 (1989), 669-676.

Tu Dec 2 Nicaragua: Life after the Sandinistas (58 pp.)

Anderson, Leslie E. "The Authoritarian Executive? Horizontal and Vertical Accountability in Nicaragua." Latin American Politics & Society 48 No. 2 (Summer 2006), 141-169.

Ruhl, J. Mark. "Civil-Military Relations in Post-Sandinista Nicaragua." Armed Forces and Society 30 No. 1 (Fall 2003), 117-139.

McConnell, Shelley A. "Nicaragua's Turning Point." Current History 106 No. 697 (February 2007), 83-88.

Th Dec 4 **Second Examination**

Mo Dec 15 **Term Paper Due**