THE REVERSAL OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN CONE: A POLITICAL ECONOMY APPROACH

54 contact hours

DESCRIPTION: Welcome to The reversal of development in the Southern Cone: A political Economy Approach! The course will be framed in the context of the last 30 years (1980-2009). We will start by analysing the state building process in Latin America and the differences with the American and European model. We will then devote a considerable amount of our time to other crucial questions such as the direction and pace of regime change in Latin America, and the relationship between democracy and development. We will also explore some of the most urgent challenges facing Latin American countries such as neo-populism, market reforms, and democratic consolidation. We will conclude the course with a discussion on the future of the state, democracy and development in the region.

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METHOD OF PRESENTATION: The course will offer students a critical and comparative introduction to the study of Latin America. Please keep in mind that this course is not meant to give you the basic information on a particular country of Latin America. Plenty of information is available from different sources: libraries, current newspapers and magazines, and the internet. The course is instead meant to enable you to understand and interpret current events in Latin America by providing you with the required conceptual tools and analytical skills through the use of diverse sources: readings, films, and documentaries.

This course invites students to engage with lectures, films, and documentaries both critically and constructively and provides an opportunity for creative, stimulating, and interesting discussion. In order to take full advantage of the course as well as to contribute your part, you will need to consistently do the background readings, actively participate in class, and come to class prepared to engage with the films, documentaries, lectures and follow-up discussions. Engaging with and completing your assignments on time is also part of this process.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

1st Written Assignment (Literature Review): 15%
Mid Term in class Exam: 25%
2nd Written Assignment (Country Comparison): 15%
Final Exam: 30%
Class Participation: 15%

CONTENT:

Week 1
Class Presentation. The Emergence of the State in Comparative Perspective
Readings:
Text 1: Lopez Alves

**Week 2**
Problems of Democratic Consolidation: quality of democracy, political parties and new patterns of instability
Readings:
Text 1: Mainwaring and Scully - Valenzuela

**Week 3**
The populist tradition and the recent emergence of neo-populism
Readings:
Text 1: Cardoso and Hewlege
Text 2: Dornbusch and Edwards
Text 3: Kaufman and Stallings

1st Written Assignment

**Week 4**
The demise of ISI and launching of market reforms
Readings:
Text 1: Edwards

**Week 5**
The political economy and the consequences of market reforms
Readings:
April 4-6
Text 2: Weyland - McComb & Zarazaga - Argentina (in Randall)

**Week 6**
Brazil, Chile
Readings:
Text 1: Maloney - Chile (in Randall)
Text 2: Baer & Paiva - Brazil (in Randall)

**Week 7**
Mexico and Venezuela
Text 1: Ramirez - Mexico (in Randall)
Text about Venezuela: TBD

**Week 8**
The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions
Text 1: Haggard and Kaufman

2nd Written Assignment

**Week 10**
The transition to Democracy in Argentina II
Text 1- Export-Oriented Populism: Commodities and Coalitions in Argentina
Neal P. Richardson
Text 2- THE RISE OF RENTIER POPULISM - Sebastián L. Mazzuca

**Week 13**
Current Trend in Latin American Politics:
Text 1- The Problem of a Single Party Predominance – Leslie Anderson
Revision for final exam

Week 14
- Final Exam

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Unless otherwise noted, the readings included in this syllabus are mandatory. You are expected to do the readings prior to the class and come prepared for participation and discussion.


Huntington, Samuel (1992). The third wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century. University of Oklahoma Press. Chapters 1, 2, & 3 (pp. 3-163).


Selections of texts:
Maloney, William. Chile, pp. 22-69.
Baer, Werner & Paiva, Claudio. Brazil, pp. 70-110.
McComb, Robert & Zarazaga, Carlos. Argentina, pp. 149-184


Note: I reserve the right to change this schedule and list of readings if circumstances require it.

Course Policies - READ CAREFULLY!

Extensions will be granted only when students are able to present compelling reasons for their inability to meet a deadline and supply satisfactory documentation (e.g. a doctor's note for a severe illness, etc.) in support of their claims. Generic or vague medical certificates or notes are not acceptable. Otherwise, students must ensure that the course Instructor receive a hard copy of their assignments on time (NO E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS, PLEASE).

If students are unable to attend an in-class test, they must inform the Instructor of their situation as soon as they are aware of the conflict and not after the test has taken place. Make-up tests will be granted only under special circumstances which may include: conflicts with religious observations, and unexpected and well-documented personal or medical contingencies (in cases of severe illness). In these cases students are required to provide the Instructor with a letter from the relevant source (e.g. doctors, Health Services, religious authority, etc.) to support their requests for special consideration. Generic or vague medical certificates or notes are not acceptable. Without appropriate documentation, the student cannot be guaranteed the rescheduling of deadlines or in-class tests.

Pressures that result from overall course load and requirements from other courses (overlap in due dates, simultaneous assignments due on the same week, etc.) do not constitute sufficient reason for rescheduling or extending assignment deadlines or in-class tests.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence with a severe penalty.