

POLI 4065: LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
10:30 – 11:50am, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Location: 129 Tureaud Hall

Professor: Dr. Yann Kerevel
Office: 230 Stubbs

Email: ykerev1@lsu.edu
Office Hours: T/W: 1:00-2:00pm.

Course Overview:

In this course, you will be introduced to the history and politics of Latin America. We will start with a brief introduction of the colonial period and the independence struggles of the Americas, then move into the major political developments of the 20th century up to the present day. No knowledge of Latin America is assumed prior to this course and therefore, we will be spending a significant amount of time studying the political histories of a number of individual Latin American countries as well as addressing several topics that transcend borders, such as U.S.- Latin American relations, revolutionary movements, civil war, democracy, and dictatorship.

Required textbook:

Skidmore, Thomas E., Peter H Smith, and James N Green. 2014. *Modern Latin America, 8th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Evaluation:

<u>Components</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Class Participation	50	485-500 A+
Exam 1	75	465 - 484 A
Exam 2	75	450 - 464 A-
Public Opinion Project	50	435 - 449 B+
Geography Quiz	25	415 - 434 B
Simulation	75	400 - 414 B-
Final Paper	150	385 - 399 C+
Total	500	365 - 384 C
		350 - 364 C-
		335 - 349 D+
		315 - 334 D
		300 - 314 D-
		0 - 299 F

Class Participation: I expect all students to attend class on a regular basis and participate in class discussion.

Exams: There will be two exams throughout the semester that relate to the readings, lectures and videos. The exams are not cumulative and only cover material since the last exam. Prior to each exam I will provide you with a study guide. All exams must be taken on the specified date. If you have a DOCUMENTED illness, emergency or excused absence on the date of an exam, you

may take an alternate exam during the scheduled final exam period.

Public Opinion Project: You are required to write a report based on public opinion data from Latin America that examines attitudes about democracy. In preparation for writing the report, we will spend time in a computer lab to teach you how to analyze a large public opinion dataset that includes responses to a detailed questionnaire from roughly 20,000 individuals across 18 Latin American countries. The project will consist of generating several tables of public opinion data using the statistical software package Stata, and briefly describing the results from the tables.

Final Research Paper: Students are required to write an original 7-8 page research paper on a topic of their choice related to the content of the course. The one major requirement of the paper is that students must engage in some basic data analysis and incorporate this analysis into the final paper. Topic choice will be limited by available data. After completing the Public Opinion Project, you will have the basic skills needed to analyze these data. We will also spend several days in the computer lab where students will receive individual help. More details will be provided in class.

Geography quiz: Since this class is about a particular geographic region, it is very important that everyone knows where each country in the Americas is located. There is a geography quiz at the beginning of the semester that will require you to identify the major countries and their capitals on a blank map.

Trade Simulation: We will conduct a simulated negotiation of a regional trade agreement between multiple countries. You will be graded on your participation during the simulation and on the generation of a response essay after the simulation. More details of the simulation will be provided in class.

Students requiring special accommodation: Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225)578-5919.

General Statement on Academic Integrity: Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For

graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method: As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation methods for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats (links are also provided on the course Moodle page).

Lectures and Readings:

All assigned readings for each day **MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS**.
Note: the abbreviation "SSG" refers to the textbook.

Week 1: Introduction

8/22: no readings

8/24: Read SSG Chapters 1-2

Week 2: Legacies of colonialism & imperialism

8/29: Read Engerman, Stanley L., and Kenneth L. Sokoloff. 1997. "Factor Endowments, Institutions, and Differential Paths of Growth Among New World Economies: A View from Economic Historians of the United States." In S. Haber, ed. *How Latin America Fell Behind*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 260-304.

Geography Quiz

8/31: US-Latin American Relations, Read SSG Chapter 15

Week 3: Legacies of revolution and civil war

9/5: Mexico, read SSG Chapter 3

9/7: Read Morris, Stephen. 2010. "Continuity and Change in Mexican Politics: The Legacies of the Mexican Revolution." *The Latin Americanist* (December): 183-99.

Week 4: Legacies of revolution and civil war, cont'd

9/12: Cuba, Read SSG Chapter 5

9/14: Central America, Read SSG Chapter 4

Week 5: Legacies of revolution and civil war, cont'd

9/19: Nicaragua, Read Thaler, Kai M. 2017. "Nicaragua: A Return to Caudillismo." *Journal of Democracy* 28(2): 157-69.

9/21: Guatemala, Read Isaacs, Anita. 2010. "Guatemala on the Brink." *Journal of Democracy* 21(2): 108-22.

Week 6: Legacies of military rule

9/26: Exam #1

9/28: Brazil, Read SSG Chapter 11

Week 7: Legacies of military rule, cont'd

10/3: Chile, Read SSG, Chapter 10

10/5: Chile, Read Heiss, C. and Navia, P. 2007. "You Win Some, You Lose Some: Constitutional Reforms in Chile's Transition to Democracy." *Latin American Politics and Society* 49: 163–190.

Week 8: Legacies of military rule, cont'd

10/10: Argentina, Read SSG Chapter 9

10/12: (No Class, conference)

Week 9: Democracy and Authoritarianism

10/17: Venezuela, Read SSG Chapter 8

10/19 (No Class, fall break)

Week 10: Democracy and Authoritarianism; Political Economy of Development

10/24: Venezuela, Read Corrales, Javier. 2015. "Autocratic Legalism in Venezuela." *Journal of Democracy* 26(2): 37-51.

10/26: Strategies of Development, Read SSG Chapter 12

Week 11: Political economy of trade

10/31: Free Trade Agreements, Read Commins, M. M. (2013), Understanding United States Foreign Policy Toward Latin America: Lessons From A Comparison of NAFTA and the Colombian Trade Promotion Agreement. *The Latin Americanist*, 57: 73–96.

11/2: Free Trade Agreements, Read Cameron and Tomlin 2000. *The Making of Nafta: How the Deal Was Done*. Cornell University Press, Chapter 3.

Simulation

Week 12: The political economy of trade

11/7: Simulation

11/9: Exam #2

Week 13: Public opinion in the Americas

11/14: Meet in Computer Lab (102 Stubbs), Read SSG Chapter 13

11/16: Meet in Computer Lab (102 Stubbs)

Week 14: Public opinion in the Americas

11/21 Meet in Computer Lab (102 Stubbs)

11/23 (No Class, Thanksgiving)

Week 15: Public opinion in the Americas

11/28: Meet in Computer Lab (102 Stubbs)

11/30: Meet in Computer Lab (102 Stubbs)

Final Papers due Friday, December 8 at 3pm.