

## **Latin American Politics (PS 127)**

Department of Political Science

Tufts University

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**Office hours:** TBA

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This course examines the ways in which political power is structured, exercised, and (re) distributed in Latin America. Specific topics include established leadership patterns (most notably *caudillismo*), key institutions (the military and the presidency, for example), influential ideologies and recurrent modes of mobilization (saliently, populism), long-standing problems (such as political violence), and major regime shifts (most recently, democratization).

Section I. addresses these topics from a general/regional and historical perspective.

Section II focuses more closely on the relevant issues and ideologies. Section III examines four prominent cases -- Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela.

### **Course Requirements:**

A midterm take-home exam (40% of the grade) and a final take-home exam (60%).

### **Reading Materials:**

All assigned readings are available on TRUNK.

### **1. Introductory Session**

-- No assigned readings

## **SECTION I. HISTORIC INSTITUTIONS AND MODES OF GOVERNING**

### **SESSIONS 2-6 Legacies, Recurring Patterns**

-- David Close, *Latin American Politics: An Introduction* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009), pp.23-36.

-- Francois Xavier Guerra, "The Spanish American Tradition of Representation and Its European Roots," in *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 26, Part 1, (February 1994), pp.1-35.

-- Close, *Latin American Politics*, pp.68-102

### **SESSIONS 7-12 Authoritarianism, Conflict, Change, Democracy**

-- James Malloy, "Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America: The Modal Pattern," in Roderic Aid Camp, ed., *Democracy in Latin America, Patterns and*

*Cycles* (Wilmington: Scholarly Resources Book, 1996), pp.121-137.

-- Close, *Latin American Politics*, pp. 105-182

-- Walter Little, "Democratization in Latin America," pp.174-194.

-- Scott Mainwaring and Timothy Scully, "Latin America: Eight Lessons for Governance," *Journal of Democracy* 19:3 (July 2008), pp.113-127.

[Where Have All Latin America's Dictators Gone?](#)

## SECTION II ISSUES AND IDEOLOGIES

### Sessions 13-16. Populism, the Left. The Center

[The Return of Populism](#)

-- Kurt Weyland, "Clarifying a Contested Concept: Populism in the Study of Latin American Politics," *Comparative Politics*, 34:1 (October, 2001), 1-22.

-- Ignacio Walker, "Democracy and Populism in Latin America," Working Paper #347, 2008, pp. 1-23.

-- Jorge Castaneda, "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, (May/June 2006), pp.1-7.

-- Mitchell Seligson, "The Rise of Populism and the Left in Latin America," *Journal of Democracy* (July 2007), 81-94.

-- Benjamin Arditi, "Arguments about the Left Turns in Latin America," *LARR*, 43:3 2008

-- Michael Shifter, "Surge to the Center," *Journal of Democracy*, 22:1 (January 2011).

-- Andy Baker and Kenneth Greene, "The Latin America's Left's Mandate: Free Market Policies and Issue Voting in New Democracies," *World Politics*, 63:1, (2011).

## SECTION III CASES

### 17-18. Mexico

-- "The Making of the Modern Mexican State," in Mark Kesselman et al., *Introduction to Comparative Politics* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2009), pp.264-309.

[Vincent Fox Elected](#)

[Zedillo's Legacy to Fox](#)

-- Enrique Krauze, "Furthering Democracy in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* (January-February 2006).

-- Alberto Olvera, "The Elusive Dream: Political Parties, Democratic Institutions, and Civil Society in Mexico," *LARRSPECIAL ISSUE* (2010), pp.79-107.

[Andrés Manuel López Obrador rebuilds for second Mexican presidential run](#)

[Mexico's Old Rulers Return But Without Strong Mandate](#)

[Mexico's Ruling Party - The New Old Guard](#)

[Mexico's Vicente Fox Irks Allies by Urging Unity With Old Ruling Party](#)

[Andrés Manuel López Obrador](#)

[Mexico's Lopez Obrador leaves coalition to form new movement](#)

[How Mexico Ended Political Gridlock](#)

[Pena Nieto Submits Bill to End Mexico's 75-Year Oil Monopoly](#)

[Six Markets to Watch: Mexico](#)

[Mexican political parties at impasse over key reforms](#)

[Left Wing Politician Lopez Obrador refers to Oil Reform as “the Robbery of the Century”](#)

[Andres Oppenheimer: Mexico’s big oil reform gamble](#)

### **Sessions 19-22. Argentina and Chile**

-- Ronaldo Munck, “Thin Democracy,” *Latin American Perspectives*, 24:6 (November 1997): 5-21.

-- Hector Schamis, “Argentina, Crisis and Democratic Consolidation,” *Journal of Democracy*, 13:2 (April 2002): 81-94.

[Party politics](#)

[Kirchner’s Death Leaves Argentina in Political Disarray](#)

[Down Among the Underclass](#)

[Argentina's Uncertain Future](#)

[Argentina to Seize Control of Oil Company](#)

[Argentina's President Fernandez Demands Falklands Talks](#)

[Is Argentina's Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner the next Evita?](#)

[It's 'for or against' Kirchner in Argentina - and its primary elections](#)

[Kirchner Signals No Course Change Despite Poor Election Showing](#)

[Peso panic and rocketing prices shake the throne of Argentina's Queen Cristina](#)

[Cristina Fernández de Kirchner: The CFK psychodrama](#)

-- Esteban Montes, Scott Mainwaring, and Eugenio Ortega, “Rethinking the Chilean Party Systems,” *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 32:3 (October 2000), pp.795-824.

-- Juan Pablo Luna and Rodrigo Mardones, “Chile: Are The Parties Over?” *Journal of Democracy*, 11:3 July 2010, pp.107-121.

[Chile Earthquake](#)

[Chilean President Rides High as Term Ends](#)

[Michelle Bachelet](#)

[Why is Piñera's Government So Unpopular In Chile?](#)

[Mea culpa, Economy Boost Chile Pinera's Approval](#)

[Conservatives Accuse Bachelet of ‘intervention’ in Chilean Politics](#)

[Could an “Alternative” Candidate Win the Chilean Election?](#)

[Chile’s Past Intrudes on Current Presidential Election](#)

[Chile Judge Rejects Charging Candidate's Father](#)

[Bachelet by a mile](#)

[Bachelet pledges radical constitutional reforms after winning Chilean election](#)

[The Political Economy of Progressive Tax Reform in Chile](#)

[Ending the permanent draw](#)

### **Sessions 23-24. Venezuela**

-- Juan Carlos Navarro, “In Search of the Lost Pact: Consensus Lost in the 1980s and 1990s,” in *Venezuelan Democracy Under Stress* pp. 13-53.

-- Moisés Naim, “The Real Story Behind Venezuela’s Woes,” in *Journal of Democracy* 12:2 (April 2001).

-- Noam Lupu, “Who Votes for chavismo? Class Voting,” *LARR* 45:1 (2010), pp.7-32.

-- Javier Corrales, “A Setback for Chavez,” in *Journal of Democracy*, 22:1 (January

2011), pp. 122-136.

[Power Shift: Venezuela's Chavez is Gaining Ground](#)

[Venezuelan Economy Grew 5.4% on Spending Ahead of Elections](#)

[Venezuela's Chavez Says Election Loss Would Spark Civil War](#)

[Venezuela Gives Chávez Protégé Narrow Victory](#)

[Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Says He Sleeps In Hugo Chavez's Mausoleum](#)

[Analysis: Under fire, Venezuela's Maduro vows new graft crackdown](#)

[Venezuelan Leader Seeks to Boost His Power](#)

[Venezuelan Protests: Latin America Is Watching](#)

[As Venezuela's Maduro confronts economic crisis, pragmatism is a risky path](#)

## **Session 25. CONCLUSION**

-- Review all the assigned readings for an in-class general discussion.