

# Politics and Society in Latin America

**COURSE DESIGNATOR** TLDO 3235

**Language of Instruction** Spanish

**NUMBER OF CREDITS** 3 credits

**Contact Hours** 45 hours

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Latin American reality includes vast natural and human spaces. This course is thought of as a journey through the cultural, historical, and geographic diversity of the continent, rather than a monographic course countries or concrete spaces. Such an approach would fail to take account of all of the distinctive features of the countries to be studied.

## INSTRUCTOR

TBD

## COURSE GOAL

The objective of this introductory course is to familiarize the students with realities, processes, and forms of logic very distinct from those they would find in their places of origin and to encourage the students to develop their critical capacity so that through studying these difference they may evaluate their own cultural realities.

## METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught through lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned reading. At least once during the semester, students will be required to give an exposition of the assigned reading, which will receive a grade. In addition to time in the classroom, student will also go on two visit to the *Museo de las Americas* and will write a three-page report based on those visits.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

Spanish 1004

## REQUIRED READING/MATERIALS

Alain Rouquie, *América Latina. Introducción al Extremo Occidente*, México, Siglo XXI, 1989.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *La muerte sin llanto. Violencia y vida cotidiana en Brasil*, Barcelona, Ariel, 1997

## GRADING

### CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	

F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.
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Summary of how grades are weighted:

Participation	10%
Weekly Exposition	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Museo de America Project	25%
Overall Grade	100%

## COURSE CONTENTS

### General Considerations

1. Latin America today. Profile of the subcontinent. The great economic, political, social, and cultural problems. 'América Latina, Hispanoamérica, Iberoamérica, Indoamérica'...: The effect of those of name-choice for the continent
2. The Origins: Crisis of independence and Colonial Legacy

### Politics and Society

1. Pre-colonial society. Models of political transition. Leadership and despotism. The Latin American State
2. Social Classes and Actors
3. Ideologies: Liberalism, Populism, Socialism
4. Political Problems: Political violence, democratic instability and militarism
5. Military Power

### The Economy

1. General Characteristics: the phases of economic development. Industrial processes
2. Levels and models of development. Theories of sub development: dependentists, structuralists, and monetarists
3. The country and the city: the agricultural dilemma and the urban dilemma
4. External debt and the processes of regional integration

### International Relations

1. The United States and Latin America. The Monroe Doctrine. Manifest Destiny. The Roosevelt Corollary. Good Neighborly politics. The East-West conflict and the Kennedy Administration.
2. Carter, Reagan, and Bush. America – United States- Europe. The relative autonomy of the region.
3. The Future of Latin America

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.