Politics & Society in Latin America

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: ARGN 3003
Number of Credits: 3
Language of Instruction: English
Contact Hours: 45
Instructor: On-site Faculty

Course Description

This course focuses on the history of Latin America from the late 19th Century to the present. It covers both political and economic issues such as the different political structures and development models that have characterized Latin America since its independence. It also focuses on some of the region’s countries' political evolution and on the basic traits of Latin America’s relation with the United States of America.

Course Objectives

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding and knowledge of the region and relevant recent political and economic processes such as the transition to democracy, the re-emergence of populism, economic instability, poverty, overpopulation, environmental devastation, and explosive urbanization.

Methodology

Attendance to class is required to pass the course. The course will be assessed through a final exam (80% of the final grade each) and through class participation (20% of the final grade). Class participation will be graded in two ways: oral presentations and participations in class discussions. All students are expected to read the course readings for each session. Course readings, rather than class notes, are the basis for exam questions.
## Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Score or Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93–100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–92</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–86</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73–76</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–72</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–66</td>
<td>Agreement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0–59</td>
<td>Agreement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall grade</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Content

Unit 1

Introduction

Required Readings


Unit 2

The Authoritarian Tradition & the Third Wave of Democratization

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene, Modern Latin America, Chapter 13.

Recommended Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene, Modern Latin America, Chapter 13.

Unit 3

Economic & Social Structures

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene, Modern Latin America, Chapter 12.

Recommended Readings


Unit 4

Cuba

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene: Modern Latin America, Chapter 5.

Recommended Readings


Unit 5

Venezuela

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene: Modern Latin America, Chapter 8.
Recommended Readings


Unit 6

Argentina

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene: Modern Latin America, Chapter 9.

Unit 7

Mid-Term Exam

Recommended Readings


Unit 8

Brazil

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith and Greene: Modern Latin America, Chapter 11.

Recommended Readings


Unit 9

Chile

Required Readings

**Recommended Readings**


**Unit 10**

**Mexico**

**Required Readings**

• Skidmore, Smith and Greene: *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 3.

**Recommended Readings**


**Unit 11**

**United States & Latin America**

**Required Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Policies

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & 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. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.