

SKIDMORE COLLEGE
THE LATIN AMERICAN PUZZLE

Government 209
Spring 2009
Ladd 106
Class meets:
M-W-F:11:15 am - 12:10 pm
E-mail address: avacs@skidmore.edu

Aldo C. Vacs
Ladd 319 (X 5249)
Office Hours:
Tu-Th: 9:30 am -12:30 pm.
or by appointment

This course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the analysis of Latin American political, social, and economic processes and institutions from a multi disciplinary perspective. In different sections it examines Latin America's historical evolution, political development, ethnic problems, gender roles, and economic strategies as well as the changing role of institutions such as the state, socioeconomic organizations, the church, and the military. It considers how Latin American societies changed after independence while noting those political, social and economic aspects that remain stable throughout time. The objective of the course is to provide a critical examination of the evolution and transformation of Latin America while offering the analytical elements necessary to interpret similar processes in other geographical areas and historical periods. It is expected that students completing this course would acquire and use effectively the analytical skills required to examine Latin American issues while developing and enhancing their abilities to critically assess Latin America's political, social and economic situations and problems from the empirical and normative perspectives. Thus, the course aims at providing the students with the historical and contemporary information required to understand the evolution and current features of Latin America's development offering them the methodological and technical skills required to read texts carefully, collect data, analyze and interpret it, and communicate the results in an effective and elegant manner, orally and in writing. In terms of critical abilities the course intends to encourage students to cultivate their skills to critically examine regional issues and problems in a creative and independent manner becoming able to assess ideas, systems, processes and behaviors from the empirical and ethical viewpoints, and to offer policy recommendations aimed at improving the Latin American condition.

Course Requirements

* **Class attendance and informed participation are required.** Attendance is essential for those desiring to pass the course and will be taken by signing an attendance sheet. In order to be able to participate effectively in the discussions and other class activities you must read the assignments **before** the day they are scheduled for analysis in class. In addition, each student, either individually or as member of a small group –depending on the size of the class– will be responsible for leading the discussion in one of the class sessions scheduled for the second and third sections of the course. The student (or students) will meet with me in advance to discuss the presentation and research the topic, and will be responsible for delivering with sufficient anticipation a list of reading and discussion questions to the rest of the class. Attendance, preparation for class discussions and student-led activities, and analytical quality of the interventions will be evaluated in order to calculate the course grade. **(20% of the final grade)**

* **Four quizzes focused on the materials assigned for different course sections.** These multiple choice examinations will be given in class and will be focused on the readings assigned for specific sections. There is no make-up for these quizzes. **(20% of the final grade)**

* **Midterm examination (30% of the total grade)**

* **Final examination (30% of the total grade)**

Late assignments will lose half a grade point for each day they are late. In addition to the specified readings students are expected to keep informed of current developments in Latin America. Good sources of information are the major national newspapers --Los Angeles Times, Miami Herald, New York Times, Washington Post, etc.-- weekly news magazines --Time, Newsweek, etc.-- and other periodical publications available at the library and through the Internet. The discussion of current Latin American issues of interest for the students is encouraged. To follow the lectures and participate in class it is necessary to become familiar with the names and geographical locations of the Latin American countries. Please consult the maps included in the assigned texts.

Required Texts (available at the Skidmore bookstore)

E. Bradford Burns and Julie A. Charlip. Latin America. A Concise Interpretive History (8th Edition)

Peter Winn, Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America.

Harry E. Vanden and Gary Prevost, eds. Politics of Latin America: The Power Game (3rd Edition)

Supplemental Bibliography (not for purchase but helpful for consultation)

Jan Knippers Black, ed., Latin America. Its Problems and its Promise

E. Bradford Burns, Latin America. A Concise Interpretive History

Ronald Chilcote and Joel Edelstein, eds., The Struggle with Dependency and Beyond

James D. Cockroft, Neighbors in Turmoil: Latin America

Russell H. Fitzgibbon and Julio A. Fernandez, Latin America: Political Culture and Development

Hansis, Randall, The Latin Americans: Understanding Their Legacy

Benjamin Keen, ed. Latin American Civilization.

Jacques Lambert, Latin America: Social Structures and Political Institutions

James Malloy and Mitchell Seligson (eds.), Authoritarians and Democrats. Regime Transition in Latin America

Kurt von Mettenheim and James Malloy, (eds.), Deepening Democracy in Latin America

Rosenberg, Kincaid, and Logan, eds. Americas: An Anthology.

Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America (New York: Oxford University Press)

Whiteford, Michael and Scott Whiteford, eds. Crossing Currents: Continuity and Change in Latin America.

H. Wiarda and H. Kline, eds., Latin American Politics and Development 4th edition (Boulder, CO; Westview Press)

Eric Wolf and Edward C. Hansen. The Human Condition in Latin America.

Gary W. Wynn, The Politics of Latin American Development (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Required readings are starred (*).

Texts between brackets [] are additional, non required, materials that may be helpful for consultation and in writing the papers.

**I. THE FORMATION OF LATIN AMERICA:
CHANGE AND STABILITY IN ITS EARLY EXPERIENCE**

January 21 - 26

**1. The Setting of the Latin American Experience:
The Land and the People.**

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapter 1
- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 1
- * Win: Chapter 1 ("A View from the South")

January 28 - February 2

2. Colonial Latin America: The Common Heritage.

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapter 2.
- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 2
- * Winn: Chapter 2 ("Legacies of Empire")

[Stuart B. Schwartz, Early Latin America]

February 4 - 9

3. The Struggle for Independence and the Legacy of Colonialism.

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapters 3 and 4
- * Vanden and Prevost: pp. 41-53
- * Winn: Chapter 3 ("The Perils of Progress")

[Richard Graham, Independence in Latin America

R. A. Humphreys and John Lynch, The Origins of Latin American
Revolutions

Howard Wiarda, ed. Politics and Social Change in Latin America]

II. MODERNIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA

February 11 - 16

4. The Process of Modernization: Economic Growth, Urbanization, Immigration, and Political Mobilization.

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapters 5 and 6.
- * Vanden and Prevost: pp. 53-63
- * Winn: Chapter 3 ("The Perils of Progress")
- * *Skidmore & Smith: pp. 42-52.*

[Roberto Cortes Conde. The First Stages of Modernization in Latin America
Celso Furtado. Economic Development of Latin America
Frederick Pike. Spanish America, 1900-1970: Tradition and Social Innovation]

February 18 - 25

5. The First Revolution of the 20th Century and its Aftermath: Mexico.

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapter 7.
- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 12 ("Mexico"/Hamilton)

[Roderic Ai Camp, Politics in Mexico
Miguel A. Centeno, Labyrinths of Power
Charles Cumberland, Mexican Revolution: Genesis under Madero
and Mexican Revolution: The Constitutionalist Years
Nora Hamilton, The Limits of State Autonomy
Roger D. Hansen, The Politics of Mexican Development
Alan Riding. Distant Neighbors]

February 27 - March 6

6. The Transformation of Contemporary Latin America: Social, Political, and Economic Aspects

- * Burns and Charlip: Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11.
- * Vanden and Prevost: pp. 63-79.
* *Leonardo Martínez Díaz, Latin America: Coming of Age; World Policy Journal (Fall 2008); pp. 221-227.*

[Fernando H. Cardoso and Enzo Faletto, Dependency and Development in Latin America
D. Collier and R. Collier, Shaping the Political Arena
S. Mainwaring, G. O'Donnell, and S. Valenzuela, The New Democracies in Latin America: Problems of Transition and Consolidation
J. Malloy and M. Seligson, eds. Authoritarians and Democrats
G. O'Donnell, P. Schmitter, and L. Whitehead, eds., Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Latin America
Richard Salvucci, ed. Latin America and the World Economy

W. Smith, C. Acuña, and E. Gamarra, eds., Latin American Political Economy in the Age of Neoliberal Reform]

MARCH 6: MID-TERM EXAM DUE
MARCH 7 - 15: SPRING VACATION

March 16 - 20

7. Authoritarian Modernization, Liberal Democratization, and Social-Democratic Change: The Brazilian Experience.

- * Burns and Charlip: pp. 264 - 267.
- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 14 ("Brazil"/Chaffee)
- * Winn: Chapter 5 ("Capital Sins")

[E. Bradford Burns. A History of Brazil
Peter Flynn. Brazil: A Political Analysis
Maria H. Moreira Alves, State and Opposition in Military Brazil
Nancy Schepper-Hughes. Death Without Weeping
Alfred Stepan, ed., Democratizing Brazil]

III. THE SEARCH FOR LATIN AMERICAN IDENTITY: ISSUES AND APPROACHES

March 23 - 27

8. The Ethnic Question: Between Exclusion and Integration.

- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapters 4 & 10 ("Guatemala"/Jonas)
- * Winn: Chapters 7 ("Children of the Sun")
and 8 ("A Question of Color")

[Peter Calvert, Guatemala: A Nation in Turmoil
Sidney W. Mintz, Caribbean Transformations.
Roger Moody, ed. The Indigenous Voice.
Frank Tannembaun, Slave and Citizen]

March 30 - April 3

9. The Gender Gap: The Changing Roles of Women.

- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapters 5 & 16 ("Chile"/Silva)
- * Winn: Chapter 9 ("In Women's Hands")

[Bourque & Warren, Women of the Andes.
P. Drake and I. Kaksic, eds. The Struggle for Democracy in Chile, 1982-1990
Gross & Bingham, Women in Latin America.
Jane S. Jacquette, ed., The Women's Movement in Latin America.
Nash & Safa, Women and Change in Latin America

Paul Sigmund. The Overthrow of Allende and the Politics of Chile, 1964 - 1976
Arturo Valenzuela. The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile
A. Valenzuela and P. Constable, A Nation of Enemies]

April 6 - 10

10. The Religious Experience: From Uniformity to Diversity

- * Burns and Charlip: pp. 52-59 & 278-280
- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapter 6
- * Winn: Chapter 10 ("The Power and the Glory")

[Phillip Berryman. Liberation Theology
Cleary and Stewart-Gambino. Power, Politics and Pentecostals in Latin America
Anthony Gill. Rendering unto Caesar
David Martin. Tongues of Fire
Joseph Murphy. Santeria
Jim Wafer. The Taste of Blood]

April 13 - 17

11. The Impasses of Development: The Political Economic Dilemmas.

- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapters 7 & 14 ("Argentina"/Vacs)
- * Winn: Chapter 4 ("A Second Independence?")

[Collier and Collier, Shaping the Political Arena
Mónica Peralta-Ramos and Carlos H. Waisman, eds.,
From Military Rule to Liberal Democracy in Argentina
David Rock. Argentina, 1516 - 1982.
David Rock, ed. Argentina in the Twentieth Century
William C. Smith, Authoritarianism and the Crisis of the Argentine Political Economy
Smith, Acuña, & Gamarra, eds. Latin American Political Economy in the Age of Neoliberal Reform
Alain Touraine, Palavra e Sangue
Wiarda and Kline, eds. Latin American Politics and Development
Gary Wynia, Argentina: Illusions and Realities]

April 20 - 27

12. The Political Alternatives: Authoritarianism, Democracy, Revolution, and Populism

- * Vanden and Prevost: Chapters 8, 10, 13
("Cuba"/Prevost), 17 ("Venezuela"/ Hellinger), & 19 ("Nicaragua"/
Vanden and Prevost)
- * Winn: Chapter 13 ("Making Revolution")

[John Booth, The End and the Beginning: The Nicaraguan Revolution
Phillip Brenner et al., eds., The Cuba Reader
Jorge Dominguez. Cuba: Order and Revolution
James Dunkerley, Power in the Isthmus
Susan Eckstein, Back from the Future
Susan Eckstein, ed. Power and Popular Protest
Malloy & Seligson, eds. Authoritarians and Democrats:
Regime Transition in Latin America
G. Prevost and H. Vanden, eds., The Undermining of the Sandinista Revolution
Joseph Tulchin, ed. The Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America
Schulz and Graham, eds. Revolution and Counterrevolution in Central
America and the Caribbean
Smith, Acuña, & Gamarra, eds. Democracy, Markets,
and Structural Reform in Latin America
Timothy Wickham-Crowley. Guerrillas & Revolution in Latin America.
Von Mettenheim & Malloy, eds. Deepening Democracy in Latin America]

V. THE FUTURE OF LATIN AMERICA:

April 29

13. Latin America into the 21st Century: Patterns of Stability, Models for Change

- * Burns: Chapter 11
- * Winn: "Epilogue" (pp. 601-608)

FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009