

Latin American Politics in Comparative Perspective POLS G8434

Spring 2008

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Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to major theoretical approaches to the study of Latin American political-economy, and to specific issues of political and economic reform from the 1980s to the present. The theoretical approaches focus on the economic and political impact of international constraints, economic interests, and representative institutions and electoral politicians. The discussion of contemporary reform explores the relation between democratization and market-oriented economic and social policies implemented during the last decades.

Organization and Requirements

The course deals with five sets of issues: 1) historical origins and path dependence; 2) democratization and democratic institutions; 3) political representation; 4) economic policy reform; and 5) social policy reform.

Students will be expected to write two seven-page papers on assigned topics and to present a 15-20 page research design at the end of the semester. The design can build on one or more of the articles assigned in the course, either by indicating ways in which arguments can be extended to new cases or empirical domains or by extending and adapting concepts presented in the articles to other outcomes.

Readings

The following books are recommended for purchase. All other reading assignments are available a) on reserve, or b) through the electronic journals collection of the library, or c) on my course web page.

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Johns Hopkins University Press 1986.

Ruth Berins Collier, *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. (Cambridge University Press 1999)

Robert R. Kaufman and Joan Nelson, eds., *Crucial Needs, Weak Incentives: Social Sector Reform, Democratization, and Globalization in Latin America*. Woodrow Wilson Center Press and Johns Hopkins University Press 2004.

January 25: Overview

Carol Wise and Riordan Roett, eds. Post-Stabilization Politics in Latin America: Competition, Transition, Collapse. Brookings Institution Press, 2003. 1-56, some of country chapters.

Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring, eds. *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks*: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-63.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," *Journal of Democracy* April 2002.

February 1: Historical Determinants of Underdevelopment: Are they doomed from the start?

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation," *American Economic Review*, December, 91, 5, 1369-1401

Engerman, Stanley L. and Kenneth L. Sokoloff. 2000. "Institutions, Factor Endowments, and Paths of Development in the New World," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14, 3 (Summer): 217-232.

Lange, Matthew, James Mahoney, and Matthias vom Hau, "Colonialism and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Spanish and British Colonies," *American Journal of Sociology*, 111,5 (March 2006), 1412-62.

Recommended

James Mahoney, Legacies of Liberalism: Path Dependence and Political Regimes in Latin America

Kohli, Atul. 2004. *State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Part I: Democratic Politics

February 8: Transitions: Role of Elite Compromises/Mass Pressures

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, *Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Pp. 3-73

Ruth Berins Collier, *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America* (Cambridge University Press 1999), pp. 1-35; 110-166; 166-199.

Recommended.

Dietrich Reuschmeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens, Capitalist Development and Democracy

February 15: First Paper Due

Political Institutions: Are Presidential Systems Prone to Instability?

Juan J. Linz and Arturo Valenzuela, The Failure of Presidential Democracy: The Case of Latin America (Comparative Perspectives) (Johns Hopkins 1994), pp. 3-151. (Linz critique of presidentialism, plus Valenzuela on Chile.

Jose Cheibub, "Minority Governments, Deadlock Situations, and the Survival of Presidential Democracy," *Comparative Political Studies* 35: 284-312 (2002)

Anibal Perez-Linan, "Democratization and Constitutional Crises in Presidential Regimes: Toward Congressional Supremacy?" *Comparative Political Studies* 2005. 38: 51-74

Recommended.

Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Soberg Shugart, Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America (Cambridge University Press 1997), Chapter 1 (pp. 12-55), Chapter 8 (pp. 300-321).

Part II. Political Representation

February 22: Political Parties: Party Collapse and Adaption

Ken Roberts, Manuscript on web page, chapters to be assigned.

Kurtz, Marcus J. 2004. "The Dilemmas of Democracy in an Open Economy: Lessons from Latin America" *World Politics*, 52, 2 (January): 262-302.

Recommended.

Steve Levitsky, "From Labor Politics to Machine Politics: The Transformation of Party-Union Linkages in Argentine Peronism," *LARR* 38, 3, 2003: PP. 3-37

Katrina Burgess and Steven Levitsky, "Explaining Populist Party Adaptation in Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies*, 36,8, 2003:881-911.

February 29: Representation and the Rise of the Left:

Jorge Casteneda, "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, 85, 3.

Roberts, Kenneth, "Latin America's Populist Revival," Forthcoming, *SAIS Review*

Remmer, Karen L. 2002. "The Politics of Economic Policy and Performance in Latin America," *Journal of Public Policy* 22, 1 (Jan.-April): 29-59.

Murillo, Maria Victoria, Political Bias in Policy Convergence: Privatization Choices in Latin America *World Politics*, July 2002

Handlin, Sam 2007. "Popular Parties and Class Cleavage in South America, 1990-2004. Paper prepared for the 2007 meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago IL, August 29-September 2.

March 7: Clientelism

Ruth Collier and Samuel P. Handlin, "Shifting Interests Regimes of the Working Classes in Latin America," on course page.

Kitschelt, Herbert 2000. "Linkages Between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities," *Comparative Political Studies*, 33,6/7: 845-879.

Calvo, Ernesto and Maria Victoria Murillo 2004. "Who Delivers? Partisan Clients in the Argentine Electoral Market," *American Journal of Political Science* 48, 4.

Brusco, V., M.Nazareno et al 2004, "Vote buying in Argentina," *Latin American Research Review*, 39, 2: 66-88.

March 14: Spring Break

March 21: Session on Ethnic Politics

Yashar, Deborah. 1999. "Democracy, Indigenous Movements and the Postliberal Challenge in Latin America." *World Politics* 52 (October): 76-104.

Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2003. "Institutional Change and Ethnic Parties in South America." *Latin American Politics and Society (Latin American Politics and Society* 45, 2 (summer).

Raul Madrid, "Indigenous Voters and Party System Fragmentation in Latin America." *LASA* 2003.

Madrid, Raul 2007. "The Rise of Ethno-Populism in Latin America: The Bolivian Case." Paper prepared for the 2007 meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago IL, August 29-September 2.

Part III: Market and Social Reforms

March 28: Executive Power, Party Competition and Market Reforms

Haggard and Kaufman, The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions, Introduction and Chapter 5.

Hector Schamis, "Distributional Coalitions and the Politics of Economic Reform in Latin America" *World Politics*, January 1999

Joel Hellman, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Post-Communist Transitions" *World Politics*, January 1998

April 4: Second Paper Due

April 11: Coalition-Building and Market Reform

Andy Baker, "Why is Trade Reform so Popular in Latin America? A Consumption-Based Theory of Trade Policy Preferences" *World Politics* April 2003

Gibson, Edward L. "The Populist Road to Market Reform: Policy and Electoral Coalitions in Mexico and Argentina" *World Politics* April 1997

Ben Ross Schneider, "Organizing Interests and Coalitions in the Politics of Market Reform in Latin America," *World Politics* April 2004

Kurtz, Marcus J. 2004. "The Dilemmas of Democracy in an Open Economy: Lessons from Latin America" *World Politics*, 52, 2 (January): 262-302.

Part IV: Social Policy Reforms

April 18: Reorganizing Social Safety-Nets and Investing in Human Capital

Joseph S. Tulchin and Allison M. Garland, eds., Social Development in Latin America, (on reserve)

Kaufman and Nelson, Urgent Needs, Weak Incentives: The Politics of Health and Education Reform in Latin America, Introduction, Chapter 2, 9, and 15.

Marcus Andre Melo, "The Politics of 'Hard Wiring': Social Policy and the Transformation of Brazilian Federalism," manuscript on web page

Brown, David S. 2002. "Democracy, Authoritarianism and Education Finance in Brazil," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 34, 1 (February): 115-41.

April 25: Globalization, Democratization, and Reform: External Influences: Diffusion and Pressure

Kurt Weyland, Ed. *Learning from Foreign Models in Latin American Policy Reform*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, and Johns Hopkins University Press. (Available on Course Page)

Grigore Pop-Eleches, "From Crisis to Reform: Partisan Responses to Economic Crisis in Latin America and Eastern Europe."

Weyland, Kurt Gerhard, "*Theories of Policy Diffusion: Lessons from Latin American Pension Reform*" *World Politics*, January 2005

Sarah Brooks. "Social Protection and Economic Integration: the Politics of Pension Reform in an Era of Capital Mobility." *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 35, 5: 491-525.

May 2: Quantitative Analysis

Wendy Hunter and David Brown, "Democracy and Social Spending in Latin America," *APSR*, December 2000. (ejournal)

Robert R. Kaufman and Alex Segura-Ubiergo, "Globalization, Domestic Politics, and Social Spending in Latin America, 1973-1997: A Cross-National, Time-Series Analysis." *World Politics*, July 2001.

Huber, Evelyne, Francois Nielsen, Jenny Pribble, and John D. Stephens. 2004. "Social Spending and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean." Paper prepared for the meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Washington D.C. (July 8-11).

Eric Wibbels, "Global Imperatives and Domestic Priorities: Internationalization, Business Cycles, and Social Spending in Latin America" (course page).

May 9: Third Paper Due