

International Relations 466:

Contemporary Issues in Latin American Politics

Fall 2006

When: Tu & Th 12:30-1:50
Where: WPH 107
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:30

Professor Gerardo Munck
E-Mail: munck@usc.edu
Office: VKC 326A

1. Course Description

The course focuses on current politics in Latin America. We will first consider recent and upcoming elections and debates about the direction of Latin American politics. Then we will sequentially address a range of themes: electoral democracy, citizenship, political inclusion, human rights, corruption, economic inequality, and the role of the US in the region. The discussion will touch on most of the countries in Latin America.

2. Requirements

The basic requirements include five quizzes (20 % of the overall grade), a 15-page research paper, to be presented in class (20 %), an in-class mid-term (25 %), and an in-class final exam (25 %). Class participation, which will be an essential part of the course, will be worth 10 % of the total grade.

With regard to the quizzes, I have included provisional dates in the syllabus, but these may change slightly. The exact dates will be announced in class. Of the five quizzes, I will drop the lowest one and thus compute grades on the basis of your best four quizzes.

With regard to your research papers, you are supposed to define your own topic of study. The only requirement concerning topic selection is that it must be related to the issues discussed in the course and that it must be based upon scholarly literature, that is, academic books, articles in professional journals, etc. A brief description of your topic, on a sheet of paper or by email is due on October 12, and the papers themselves are due in class when you make your presentation the last week of class.

3. Readings

All the readings are accessible through the Blackboard, under "Course Documents." Some of the electronic files include other materials, which do not need to be read. The specific chapters are clearly listed below.

1. Current Latin American Politics

Introduction and an Overview of Elections (Meetings 1, 2 & 3: August 22, 24 & 29)

“Year of Elections,” *ReVista* (Spring/Summer 2006). Read pp. 4-17 (articles by Poire, Jones, Navia, King, Lehoucq), and pp. 21-37 (articles by Vargas Llosa, Crisp and Botero, Benton, Desposato, Dunbar-Ortiz, Alvarez and Acosta).

Interpretations and Arguments (Meetings 4, 5 & 6: August 31, September 5 & 7)

“Year of Elections,” *ReVista* (Spring/Summer 2006). Read pp. 38-50 (articles by Mejía Acosta, Bruhn, Moreno-Brid and Painovic, Centeno).

Jorge G. Castañeda, “Latin America’s Left Turn,” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2006).

Gerardo L. Munck, “Latin America: Old Problems, New Agenda,” *Democracy at large* Vol. 2, N° 3 (2006): 10-13.

-Quiz # 1 (9/7)

2. Electoral Democracy

Electing Representatives (Meetings 7, 8 & 9: September 12, 14 & 19)

Sharon F. Lean, “External Validation and Democratic Accountability in Latin American Elections,” in Thomas Legler, Sharon F. Lean, and Dexter Boniface (eds.), *Promoting Democracy in the Americas? States, Multilateral, and Transnational Actors*, unpublished manuscript.

Organization of American States (OAS), *Report of the Electoral Observation Mission in Peru (2000 General Election)* (Washington, DC: OAS, 2000).

Gerardo L. Munck, “Standards for Evaluating Electoral Processes by OAS Election Observation Missions,” Organization of American States (OAS), July 10, 2006.

Serving Electoral Terms (Meetings 10, 11 & 12: September 21, 26 & 28)

Arturo Valenzuela, “Latin American Presidencies Interrupted,” *Journal of Democracy* Vol. 15, N° 4 (October 2004): 5-19.

Rubén M. Perina, “The Role of the Organization of American States,” in Morton H. Halperin and Mirna Galic (eds.), *Protecting Democracy: International Responses* (Lanham, MD.: Lexington Books, 2005).

-Quiz # 2 (9/28)

3. Democracy and Citizenship

The State of Citizenship Rights (Meetings 13 & 14: October 3 & 5)

UNDP, “Democratic Development Indicators,” pp. 77-129, in United Nations Development Program (UNDP), *Democracy in Latin America. Toward a Citizens’ Democracy* (New York Aires: UNDP, 2005).

Meeting 15: October 10

*** In-Class Mid-Term Exam: October 10 **

4. Political Inclusion

Gender, Ethnicity and Race (Meetings 16 & 17: October 12 & 17)

Mala Htun, “Women, Political Parties, and Electoral Systems in Latin America,” pp. 112-21, in *Women in Parliament. Beyond Numbers* 2nd. ed. (Stockholm: International IDEA, 2005).

Álvaro Bello and Marta Rangel, “Equity and Exclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Case of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples,” *CEPAL Review* 76 (2002): 35-53.

Donna Lee Van Cott, “Building Inclusive Democracies: Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Minorities in Latin America,” *Democratization* Vol. 12, N° 5 (2005): 820-37.

-Quiz # 3 (10/17)

5. Human Rights

Prisons, Torture, Impunity and Other Issues (Meetings 18 & 19: October 19 & 24)

Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2006* (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2006), pp. 161-217 (section on Americas).

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), “Chapter IV. Human Rights Developments in the Region,” of the *Annual Report* to the General Assembly of the OAS in the Dominican Republic. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, June 6, 2006.

-Quiz # 4 (10/24)

6. Corruption and Economic Inequality

Corruption (Meetings 20 & 21: October 26 & 31)

John Bailey, "Corruption and Democratic Governability in Latin America: Issues of Types, Arenas, Perceptions, and Linkages," Prepared for delivery at the 2006 Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15-18, 2006.

Norma Parker, Gerardo Berthin, Roberto de Michele and Yemile Mizrahi, *Corruption in Latin America: A Desk Assessment* (Washington, D.C.: USAID, 2004).

Economic Inequality (Meetings 22 & 23: November 2 & 7)

Guillermo Perry, Francisco H. G. Ferreira, Michael Walton et al. *Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Breaking with History?* (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2004), Chs. 2, 4 & 5.

Brazil as a Case Study (Meetings 24 & 25: November 9 & 14)

Thomas E. Skidmore, "Brazil's Persistent Income Inequality: Lessons from History," *Latin American Politics & Society* Vol. 46, N° 2 (Summer 2004): 133-50.

Emir Sader, "Taking Lula's Measure," *New Left Review* # 35 (May-June 2005): 59-79.

-Quiz # 5 (11/14)

7. The US and Latin America

The Bush Years (Meetings 26 & 27: November 16 & 21)

Inter-American Dialogue, *Agenda for the Americas 2005*. Report of the U.S. Policy Task Force of the Inter-American Dialogue (March 2005).

Jorge I. Dominguez, "Bush Administration Policy," *ReVista* (Spring/Summer 2005): 3-5.

Peter Hakim. "Is Washington Losing Latin America?" *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2006): 39-53.

***** Thanksgiving Holiday: November 23 *****

Meetings 28 & 29: November 28 & 30: Class Presentations

***** Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12,
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m *****