LATIN AMERICA AT THE START OF THE XXI CENTURY: COMING OF AGE OR CONTINUING CHAOS?

Fall 2018

I. Course description

This seminar focuses on several aspects of Latin America’s problems in the past and their possible solutions today. It takes up such topics as the absence of orderly, peaceful, and steady democratic rule during the first 160 or 170 years of independence from colonial rule and the consolidation of representative democracy today; the absence of economic growth during the last 20 years and the possibility of a new economic takeoff today; the widespread persistence of violence in Latin America and the growing respect for human rights today; and the weakness of civil society in Latin America in the past and the growing strength and vigor of civil society today. For each topic, there are readings dealing with its political, economic, and cultural dimensions in both past and present.

II. Course requirements

Midterm Examination: 30%
The midterm exam will cover the topics discussed in class between Weeks 1-6. I will be held on October 22, 2017 (to be confirmed).

Final Examination: 25%
The final exam will cover all topics discussed during the course, but relying more heavily on Weeks 7-13.

One-pager reading responses: 10%
Students will deliver a one-page reading response five times during semester. They should register the week of their interest in a form given by the graduate assistant. Each student must present, at least once during the semester, his/her reading response.

Class participation: 5%
Students are encouraged to participate throughout the lecture.

Final Paper: 30%
In consultation with the graduate assistant, students are expected to write a 10-15 pages paper. While not intended to produce original research, it should address a topic of interest to the student that is linked to the general topic of the course.
- Topics should be defined by Week 5 at the latest.
- The paper will be due on December 15th.

III. Meeting information

Professor
Jorge G. Castañeda
jorge.castaneda@nyu.edu

Graduate Assistant
Vaclav Masek
vaclav.masek@nyu.edu
(send email to set up office hours)

1/6
Class Meetings
Mondays 9:30-12:00
King Juan Carlos II Center, room 404W
53 Washington Square South

IV. Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the University bookstore:


Additional articles and other required materials will be available on NYU Classes.

V. Weekly Schedule

A. INDEPENDENT LIFE AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY.

Week 1: September 10th

Acemoglu, Daron and James Robinson. 2012. “Why Nations Fail?” (Ch. 3, pp. 70-95) and 4 (Random House: NY)


Complementary Readings


NOTE: STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE READ EVERYTHING PRIOR TO THE FIRST CLASS.
Week 2: September 17th


**Complementary Readings**


**B. THE PERSISTENCE OF VIOLENCE, THE GROWING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE EMERGENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY.**

Week 3: September 24th


**Complementary Readings**

Week 4: October 1st

Chioda, L (2017). STOP THE VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA: A Look At Prevention From Cradle To Adulthood (pp. 1-55)


Borzutzky S. (2017) Conclusions. In: Human Rights Policies in Chile. (Ch. 8, pp. 219- 224)

Complementary Readings


Week 5: October 8th

NO CLASSES SCHEDULED

NOTE: FINAL PAPER TOPIC SHOULD BE DEFINED BY THIS DATE.

C. THE ABSENCE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW ECONOMIC TAKE-OFF.

Week 6: October 15th

Reid, Michael. 2007. Forgotten Continent. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press (Ch. 2, pp. 30-51).

Sebastian Edwards. 2010. Left Behind: Latin America and the false promise of populism, University of Chicago Press. (Ch. 1 and 2, pp 1-46).

Complementary Readings


Week 7: October 22th
MID-TERM EXAM

Week 8: October 29th

Sebastian Edwards. 2010. Left Behind: Latin America and the false promise of populism, University of Chicago Press. (Ch. 2-4, pp.21-100).


Complementary Readings


D. THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA: FROM CONFLICT AND MISTRUST TO COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION.

Week 9: November 5th


Long, Tom. 2015. Latin America Confronts the United States Asymmetry and Influence, Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 1 pp. 1 – 24)

Reid, Michael. 2007. Forgotten Continent. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press (Ch. 4, p 81-105).

Week 10: November 12th

Long, Tom. 2015. Latin America Confronts the United States Asymmetry and Influence: Recalculation of interests: NAFTA and Mexican Foreign Policy, Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 4 pp. 129 – 173)


Complementary Readings


E. OTHER ISSUES: IMMIGRATION POLICY AND DRUG TRAFFICKING.

**Week 11: November 19\textsuperscript{rd}**


Complementary Readings


**Week 12: November 26\textsuperscript{th}**

Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy, *Drugs & Democracy: Toward a paradigm shift* Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy (pp. 7-41)


Complementary Readings


F. LATIN AMERICA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XXI CENTURY.

Week 13: December 3rd


Week 14: December 10th

No readings assigned

NOTE: FINAL PAPER DUE DECEMBER 15TH 5:00PM

FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 17TH (ROOM 404W KJC II)