

**Syllabus for POLS 3583  
Latin American Politics  
Spring 2020**

**Course: POLS 3583 Latin American Politics**

Class: MW& F 10:00–10:50, PY 209

**Lecturer: Steve Garrison, Ph.D.**

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and by appointment  
Note: TR 206/153 Dillard

**Latin American Politics POLS 3583** This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the political issues facing the modern Latin American region. The course is divided into five sections: Section One provides an introduction to the context of Latin American politics; Section Two provides an overview of the institutional foundations of Latin American politics; Section three examines economic development in Latin America; Section four examines internal political conflict in the region, and Section five examines issues facing economic and political development in the region. Throughout the course we will examine six countries in detail.

**Texts:** *Politics in Latin America*, Second Edition Charles Blake (2008), Cengage Learning (ISBN 9780618802517).

**Case Studies:** We will be using a few case studies in addition to the text book. These cases will allow us to indepthly explore an international relations event. The case studies are available online from the Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy website: <https://casestudies.isd.georgetown.edu/collections/frontpage>.

- Case 312 Nelson, Brian A. Polarization in Venezuela: The Battle between Hugo Chavez and the Opposition
- Case 237 Sondrol, Paul C. Power Play in Paraguay: The Rise and Fall of General Alfredo Stroessner
- Case 330 From Miracle to Crisis: Brazilian Foreign Debt and the Limits of Obligation
- Case 320 Dighton, Fiddner and Hunter F. Lutinski. 2009. "The Cartagena Summit: Cooperative International Counterdrug Policy
- Case 275 Garrison, Steve R. and Deborah J. Gerner. A Sea of Troubles: Honduras and the Contra Demobilization.
- Case 312 Torture for Profit: The Role of Mercedes-Benz in Argentina's Dirty War and the Struggle for Accountability and Reconciliation
- Case 204 Maxfield, Sylvia. 1995. "North American Economic Integration: Monetary and Exchange Rate Aspects.

The cases are delivered as PDF files which can be downloaded from the website. They are \$3.50 for each case for a total of \$24.50.

In addition to the cases and text book there are a series of readings that we will use in class. Electronic copies will be available in D2L.

**Expectations, Examinations, and Grading:** Students are expected to attend class. Lectures will not reproduce the texts. Students are also expected to enthusiastically participate in class discussions. There will be two examinations and a final exam. The format of each is short answer questions and identification of key terms. The highest grading scale will be 90 (A), 80 (B), 70 (C), and 60 (D). If for any reason you should have to miss a test please inform the instructor prior to the time of the test and provide documentation for your absence. In addition to the exams a quiz will also be given on the regions countries and capitals on February 4. Periodic case preparation assignments will also be assigned in order to prepare students for the case discussion days. In order to ensure that students diligently do their reading assignments there will also be periodic reading quizzes. Students will also be required to complete a research paper on a political issue in the region. The percentage breakdown is as follows:

**Grading:**

Exam 1 20 points  
Exam 2 20 points  
Exam 3 25 points  
Map Quiz 5 points  
Case Preparations and Reading Quizzes 10 points  
Paper 20 points

**Disability Policy:** Any student in this course who has a disability that may preclude demonstrating fully his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible. We will discuss the accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate education.

**Plagiarism:** I take plagiarism very seriously and will check your work. By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes. The University’s *minimum penalty* for cheating or plagiarism is *a failure of assignment*. Cheating or plagiarism can lead to expulsion from the university. If you have questions about original work, please consult the Student Handbook Code of Student Conduct Appendix E.

*Calendar* The following calendar represents the schedule of readings and topics for the course. The reading assignments are located under the date and topic. The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule.

## Course Schedule

### Introduction

#### January 20: MLK Day

- No Class

## **January 22: Introduction**

- Syllabus

## **Section I: The Context of Latin American Politics**

### **January 24: Context of Latin American Politics**

- Blake Chapter 1

### **January 27 and 29: Colonialism and Independence**

- Blake Chapter Two: pp. 1-26

### **January 31: The Peruvian Experience**

- Blake Chapter Two: pp. 26-47

### **February 3: Case I**

- Geske, Mary and Michael Clancey. Sexploitation?: Sex Tourism in Cuba. (D2L)

## **Section II: Institutional Foundations of Latin American Politics**

### **February 5: Latin American Political Models**

- Weyland, Kurt. 1995. "Latin America's Four Political Models", *Journal of Democracy*, 125-139. (D2L)
- Latin America Map Quiz

### **February 7: Mexico**

- Blake Chapter Ten

### **February 10: Authoritarianism**

- Vanden, Harry and Gary Prevost. 2015. "Democracy and Authoritarianism: Latin American Political Culture" in *Politics of Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

### **February 12: Brazil**

- Blake Chapter Six

### **February 14: Populism**

- Oxhorn, Philip. 1998. "The Social Foundations of Latin America's Recurrent Populism: Problems of Popular Sector Class Formation and Collective Action" *Journal of Historical Sociology* (213-246). (D2L)

### **February 17: Case II**

- Nelson, Brian A. Polarization in Venezuela: The Battle between Hugo Chavez and the Opposition (Case 312).

### **February 19: Exam**

- Study Guide One

### **February 21: The Venezuelan Crisis**

- Alarcon, Benigno, Angel Alvarez and Manuel Hidalgo. 2016. "Can Democracy Win in Venezuela?" *Journal of Democracy*. 27(2):20-34.(D2L)

### **February 24: The Military Tradition**

- Smith, Peter. 2012. "The Military: heading for the Exits" in *Democracy in Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

### **February 26: Bureaucratic Authoritarianism**

- Schamis, Hector. 1991. "Reconceptualizing Latin American Authoritarianism in the 1970s, From Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism to NeoConservatism." *Comparative Politics*, 23:2. (D2L)

### **February 28: Case III**

- Sondrol, Paul C. *Power Play in Paraguay: The Rise and Fall of General Alfredo Stroessner (Case 237)*.

## **Section III: Economic Development**

### **March 2: Latin American Political Economy**

- Vanden, Harry and Gary Prevost. 2015. "Latin American Political Economy" in *Politics of Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

#### **March 4: Dependency Theory**

- Valenzuela, J. Samuel and Arturo Valenzuela. 1978. Modernization and Dependency. Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Development. *Comparative Politics*, 10: 4. (D2L)

#### **March 6: Case IV**

- Landy, Thomas M. From Miracle to Crisis: Brazilian Foreign Debt and the Limits of Obligation (Case 330).

### **Section IV: Internal Cohesion**

#### **March 9: Cuba**

- Blake Chapter Eight

#### **March 11: Internal Violence**

- Kay, Cristobal. 2001. Reflections on Rural Violence in Latin America. *Third World Quarterly*, 22: 5. (D2L)

#### **March 13: Case V**

- Shayne, Julia. Family, Feminism, and Nation: One Woman's Quest for an Answer in War-torn El Salvador. (D2L)

#### **March 16, 18, & 20: Spring Break**

- No Class

### **March 20: Colombia**

- Dugas, John. 2015. "Colombia" in Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost *Politics of Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

### **March 23: Guerrilla Insurgency**

- Hough, Philip Andrew. 2011. "Guerrilla Insurgency as Organized Crime Explaining the So-Called 'Political Involution' of the Revolutionary Armed Forces...". *Politics and Society*. 39(3). (D2L)

### **March 25: Case VI**

- Dighton, Fiddner and Hunter F. Lutinski. 2009. "The Cartagena Summit: Cooperative International Counterdrug Policy (Case 320).

### **April 1, 3, & 5: The Civil War in El Salvador**

- Alvarez, Alberto Martin. 2010 "From Revolutionary War to Democratic Revolution: The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador" in *Resistance/Liberation Movements and Transition to Politics*. Edited by Veronique Dudouet and Hans J. Giessman. Berghof Transitions Series: Ottawa, CA. (D2L)

### **April 6: Catch up**

- Study Guide II

### **April 8: Exam**

- Study Guide II

### **April 10: Easter Break**

- No Class

## **Section V: Contemporary Quest for Development**

### **April 13: Chile**

- Blake Chapter Seven

### **April 15: Democratization**

- Smith, Peter. 2012. "Cycles of Electoral Democracy" in *Democracy in Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

### **April 17: Case VII**

- Garrison, Steve R. and Deborah J. Gerner. A Sea of Troubles: Honduras and the Contra Demobilization. (Case 275).

### **April 20: Democratic Transitions**

- Smith, Peter. 2012. "Transitions and Continuities" in *Democracy in Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Oxford. (D2L)

### **April 22: Democracy and Human Rights**

- Panizza, Francisco. 1995. "Human Rights in the Process of Transition and Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America." *Political Studies*, vol. XLIII. (D2L)
- Blake Chapter Four: pp. 93-120

#### **April 24: Case VIII**

- Lowe, Daniel and Steve R. Garrison. Torture for Profit: The Role of Mercedes-Benz in Argentina's Dirty War and the Struggle for Accountability and Reconciliation (Case 312).

#### **April 27: Relations with the U.S.**

- Wiarda, Howard J. 1997. "Consensus Found, Consensus Lost: Disjunctures in U.S. Policy Toward Latin America at the Turn of the Century." *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*, 39: 1. (D2L)

#### **April 29: Economic Integration**

- Kellogg, Paul. 2007. "Regional Integration in Latin America: Dawn of an Alternative to Neoliberalism?" *New Political Science* 29(2): 187-209. (D2L)

#### **May 1: Case IX**

- Maxfield, Sylvia. 1995. "North American Economic Integration: Monetary and Exchange Rate Aspects. (Case 204).

#### **May 4: Border Security**

- Correa-Cabrera. 2013. "Security, Migration, and the Economy in the Texas-Tamaulipas Border Region: The "Real" Effects of Mexico's Drug War." *Politics and Policy*. 41(1): 65-82. (D2L)

#### **May 6: Future of Latin America**

- Blake Chapter Twelve

**May 8: Review and Catch up**

- Final Exam Study Guide

**May 13: 10:30-12:30**

- Final Exam Study Guide