

SYLLABUS: LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS - FALL 2004 (CPO 4303-002)

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Classroom: LA 339
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Class Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday
1100-1220

Office Hours:
by appointment
Tues. & Thurs (12:20 PM)

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to familiarize the student with the fundamental actors, factors and issues, which determine or significantly influence the politics of Latin America. The course is a broad introductory survey of Latin American politics, treating every country in the region on a case-study basis. We will treat the nature of Latin America's emerging democratic politics in the context of relevant issues concerning political economy, narcotics trafficking, civil-military relations, revolution, the exacerbation of land and wealth inequalities, economic dependency, class conflict and the influence of the United States. The course will also explore the role of selected political parties and personalities or actors, involving labor, the military, the peasantry, landed and other economic elites, the church and international interests, which influence the political processes of the region. All of the above will be considered against a backdrop of the key, influential values contributed by the Iberian-Spanish colonial heritage, which are still in play today.

Books required:

Howard Wiarda and Harvey Kline, eds.: Latin American Politics and Development, Fifth Edition (2000); and

Sewall H. Menzel: Cocaine Quagmire

Note: Books are available in the F.A. U. bookstore.

Course Requirements:

1. Class participation and mandatory attendance (10 percent of grade). Students are expected to attend all classes. The class will do a core of common readings in accordance with this syllabus. Each student is expected to complete all reading assignments prior to class meetings. Lectures will not duplicate readings, although the professor may highlight salient points of interest. Class participation in discussions is strongly encouraged. See also item 5 below on conduct.
2. A Mid-Term Examination (30 percent of grade) will be given on 12 October (Tuesday). The exam will be based on both lecture and reading material and will

consist of essay and short answer questions/requirements. PLEASE NOTE THAT A NO MAKE-UP POLICY FOR EXAMS WILL BE IN EFFECT. EXCEPTIONS TO THE POLICY MUST BE ARRANGED WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.

3. One (1) book report (20 percent of the grade) on Cocaine Quagmire will be required and turned in to the professor 18 November.

4. Fmal Examination (40 percent of grade) will take place 3-9 December, details TBA.

Note: Final grade calculation is based on the 1,000 point system and will be explained in class the first day.

5. Conduct:

A. Class will begin promptly at the scheduled time.

B. Each student is expected to do their own work.

Weekly Lecture Outline:

1. Administration and Conduct of the Course (24 August)

2. Introduction (26 August)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Preface and Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5, and pages 575-576.

3. Argentina (31 August and 2 September)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 4 and 6. Also begin reading Menzel: Cocaine Quagmire.

4. Uruguay and Chile (7 and 9 September)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 12 and 8.

5. Paraguay and Bolivia (14 and 16 September)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 13 and 14.

6. Peru and Ecuador (21 and 23 September)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 10 and 15.

7. Colombia (28 and 30 September)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 9 and finish reading Cocaine Quagmire.

8. Venezuela (5 and 7 October)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 11 and review all notes/readings.

9a. **MID-TERM EXAMINATION - 12 October (Tuesday)**

9b. Panama -14 October (Thursday)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 24.

10. Costa Rica/U.S. Foreign Policy (19 and 21 October)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 18.

11. Nicaragua and Honduras (26 and 28 October)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 19 and 22.

12. El Salvador (2 and 4 November)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 20.

13. Guatemala and Belize (9 November)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 21.

Note: 11 November is Veteran's Day holiday - no class!

14. Mexico and Cuba (16 and 18 November)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 16 and 17

Note: Book report is due into Dr. Menzel 18 November.

15. Haiti and the Dominican Republic (23 November)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapters 25 and 23.

Note: 25 November is Thanksgiving holiday - no class!!

16. Brazil (30 November) and Overview/Reading Day (2 December)

Reading: Wiarda and Kline: Chapter 7 and pages 576-582.

Note: Final Exam is 3-9 December, details TBA.