

POLI 235A: POLITICAL CHANGE IN LATIN AMERICA

Spring 2010
Tuesday 3:00-5:50 SSB 104

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This seminar will explore patterns and processes of political change in contemporary Latin America. Specific topics include: forms of authoritarianism, modes of democratic transition, cycles of democracy, economic and social performance, the pursuit of social equity, political culture and popular opinion, and strategies for research design.

In practical terms, the seminar is designed to:

- Introduce students to a broad range of conceptual approaches to Latin America,
- Promote critical analysis of literature in the field, especially “classic” writings, and
- Encourage the development of viable research projects (and potential dissertation topics).

Required reading:

- Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)
- Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring, eds., *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Selected articles and book chapters, on-line or in a Course Reader (CR).

Students will be required to:

- contribute to weekly discussions,
- deliver at least one formal report on “books of the week,” and
- present and submit analytical papers (~ 20 pages).

Writing assignments will be explained in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Mar 30: Introduction/Organization/Preview

Apr 06: Forms of Authoritarianism

Juan J. Linz, "An Authoritarian Regime: Spain" [ca. 1964] (CR #1)

Guillermo O'Donnell, *Modernization and Bureaucratic-Authoritarianism* [1973], chs. 1-2 (CR #2)

Book of the Week:

David Collier, ed., *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (1979)

Apr 13: Cycles and Transitions

Smith, *Democracy*, introduction and chs. 1-2

Hagopian and Mainwaring, *Third Wave*, chs. 4-7

Book of the Week:

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies* [1986]

Apr 20: International Factors

Smith, *Democracy*, ch. 4

Hagopian and Mainwaring, *Third Wave*, ch. 1

Books of the Week:

Laurence Whitehead, *The International Dimensions of Democratization: Europe and the Americas* [2001]

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century* [1991]

Apr 27: Policy Performance and Social Equity

Smith, *Democracy*, ch. 8

Hagopian and Mainwaring, *Third Wave*, chs. 2-3

Peter H. Smith and Melissa R. Ziegler, "Governmental Performance and Political Regimes: Latin America in Comparative Perspective" [2007]
<[www.tfd.org.tw/docs/dj0302/101-118-Smith and Ziegler.pdf](http://www.tfd.org.tw/docs/dj0302/101-118-Smith%20and%20Ziegler.pdf)>

Matthew Soberg Shugart and Stephan Haggard, "Institutions and Public Policy in Presidential Systems" [2001] (CR #3)

Books of the Week:

Adam Przeworski et al., *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990* [2000]

IDB, *The Politics of Policies: Economic and Social Progress in Latin America, 2006 Report* [2005]

May 04: Politics of Gender

Smith, *Democracy*, ch. 9

Jane Jaquette, "Rewriting the Scripts: Gender in the Comparative Study of Latin American Politics" (CR #4)

Book of the Week:

Mala Htun, *Sex and the State: Abortion, Divorce, and the Family under Latin American Dictatorships and Democracies* [2003]

May 11: Qualities of Latin American Democracy

Smith, *Democracy*, chs. 10-epilogue, inclusive

Hagopian and Mainwaring, *Third Wave*, chs. 8-10

Book of the Week:

United Nations Development Program (UNDP), *Democracy in Latin America: Toward a Citizens' Democracy* [2004/2005], also available in Spanish

May 18: Political Culture and Public Opinion

Smith, *Democracy*, ch. 11

Hagopian and Mainwaring, *Third Wave*, ch. 11

Ronald Inglehart, "The Renaissance of Political Culture" [1988] (CR #5)

Readings of the Week:

Mitchell A. Seligson, ed., *Challenges to Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Evidence from the AmericasBarometer 2006-2007* (LAPOP, Vanderbilt University) <<http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/lapop>>

Student Presentations #1

May 25: Issues in Research Design

David Collier and Steven Levitsky, "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research" <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25054009>>

Gerardo L. Munck and Jay Verkuilen, "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy" [2002] <<http://spcps.highwire.org/cgi/content/abstract/35/1/5>>

Student Presentations #2

PAPERS DUE ON FRIDAY JUNE 04