

# INTL 4960: Democracy in Latin America (Directed Readings)

Spring 2020

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**Description and Goal of Course:** This course will introduce students to some of the major topics surrounding democracy in Latin America. Students will first read about the factors that have both encouraged and hindered democratization in Latin America. Next, they will read about modern democratic institutions in Latin America. Students will then read about how the Latin American public views democracy. Finally, students will read about how ordinary Latin Americans take part in the democratic process. By the end of the course, students should have strong knowledge of Latin American democracy and be able to critically appraise its strengths and weaknesses.

## Student Responsibilities:

**Readings:** Students are required to do the readings for each week. All of the readings are academic journal articles, which are freely available with UGA credentials. Students can access academic articles from off campus using this webpage: <http://guides.libs.uga.edu/directlinks>. If you cannot find an article online, do not purchase it. Instead, email Prof. Singh, who will locate the article for you.

**Weekly Analyses:** For each week, students should write an analysis of at least four of that week's required readings. These must be emailed to Prof. Singh by 9AM each Tuesday of the remainder of the semester. These are the due dates:

- Week 1 Analysis: April 7
- Week 2 Analysis: April 14
- Week 3 Analysis: April 21
- Week 4 Analysis: April 28

The goal is for you to critically assess the assigned readings. These analyses provide you an opportunity to go beyond summarizing the readings and to reflect on their implications, their strengths, and their weaknesses. For each reading, your weekly analysis should, at a minimum, provide or reflect upon the following:

- Provide a detailed summary of the reading.
- What are the reading's main weaknesses?
- What are the reading's main strengths?
- How does the reading connect with the other readings assigned that week?
- What are the implications for future academic research?
- What are the implications for the survival and proper functioning of democracy in Latin America?

**Final Paper:** In the final paper, students should pick a pair of Latin American democracies and compare and contrast their democratic history and functioning with regard to the weekly topics and beyond. It is expected that students will engage with academic literature beyond the syllabus—the final paper should have at least ten academic citations. It should, at a minimum, include the following:

- What is the democratic history of the two countries? How were their democratization processes similar? How were they different?
- How is democracy organized in the two countries, and does this matter? That is:
  - Are the countries federal or unitary?
  - Are the countries presidential, parliamentary, or something else?
  - Describe the countries' electoral systems.
  - Describe the countries' party systems.
  - Does the democratic structure of each country provide any particular advantages or drawbacks?
- How does the public feel about democracy in the two countries? What are the reasons for any similarities and differences in mass attitudes toward democracy?
- How involved in democracy is the public in the two countries? What factors shape how voters decide? What are the reasons for any similarities and differences in voter behavior?
- What are the prospects for democracy in the two countries? Which country is more likely to succeed as a democracy? Why?

The final paper is due before midnight on May 6, which is the last day of finals week. There is no maximum or minimum number of pages. Cite referenced works properly. You may use any citation style, as long as it is consistent throughout.

**Grade Distribution:**

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Weekly Analyses: | 60% (15% each) |
| Final Paper:     | 40%            |

**Grade Scale:**

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| >=93%:     | A  |
| 90-92.99%: | A- |
| 87-89.99%: | B+ |
| 83-86.99%: | B  |
| 80-82.99%: | B- |
| 77-79.99%: | C+ |
| 73-76.99%: | C  |
| 70-72.99%: | C- |
| 60-69.99%: | D  |
| <60%:      | F  |

**Late/Missed Assignments:** Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical

excuse or family emergency. Make-up exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources:** If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services. UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

**Academic Integrity:** The academic honesty policy of the university is supplemented (not replaced) by an Honor Code which was adopted by the Student Government Association and approved by the University Council May 1, 1997, and provides: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” All students agree to abide by this code by signing the UGA Admissions Application.

## Readings

### WEEK 1: Democratization in Latin America

Fukuyama, Francis. 2008. “Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy: The Latin American Experience.” *Journal of Democracy* 19(4): 69-79.

Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. 2016. “Democratization During the Third Wave.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 19(1): 125-44.

Karl, Terry Lynn. 1990. “Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America.” *Comparative Politics* 23(1): 1-21.

Mainwaring, Scott, and Timothy R. Scully. 2008. “Latin America: Eight Lessons for Governance.” *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 113-27.

Weyland, Kurt. 2004. “Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 46(1): 135-57.

### WEEK 2: Democratic Institutions in Latin America

Carnes, Nicholas, and Noam Lupu. 2015. “Rethinking the Comparative Perspective on Class and Representation: Evidence from Latin America.” *American Journal of Political Science* 59(1): 1-18.

- Linz, Juan J. 1990. "Perils of Presidentialism." *Journal of Democracy* 1(1): 51-69.
- Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. "Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2): 198-228.
- Morgenstern, Scott, and Javier Vázquez-D'Elía. 2007. "Electoral Laws, Parties, and Party Systems in Latin America." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10(1): 143-68.
- Pereira, Carlos, and Marcus André Melo. 2012. "The Unexpected Success of Multiparty Presidential Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 23(3): 156-70.

### **WEEK 3: Mass Attitudes Toward Democracy in Latin America**

- Carlin, Ryan E., and Matthew M. Singer. 2011. "Support for Polyarchy in the Americas." *Comparative Political Studies* 44(11): 1500-26.
- Lagos, Marta. 2008. "Latin America's Diversity of Views." *Journal of Democracy* 19(1): 111-25.
- Madrid, Raúl L., and Matthew Rhodes-Purdy. 2016. "Descriptive Representation and Regime Support in Latin America." *Political Studies* 64(4): 890-909.
- Singh, Shane P., and Ryan E. Carlin. 2015. "Happy Medium, Happy Citizens: Presidential Power and Democratic Regime Support." *Political Research Quarterly* 68(1): 3-17.
- Walker, Lee Demetrius, and Genevieve Kehoe. 2013. "Regime Transition and Attitude toward Regime: The Latin American Gender Gap in Support for Democracy." *Comparative Politics* 45(2): 187-205.

### **WEEK 4: Democratic Political Behavior in Latin America**

- Carreras, Miguel, and Néstor Castañeda-Angarita. 2014. "Who Votes in Latin America? A Test of Three Theoretical Perspectives." *Comparative Political Studies* 47(8): 1079-104.
- Cohen, Mollie J. 2018. "Protesting Via the Null Ballot: An Assessment of the Decision to Cast an Invalid Vote in Latin America." *Political Behavior* 40(2): 395-414.
- Carlin, Ryan E., and Shane P. Singh. 2015. "Executive Power and Economic Accountability." *Journal of Politics* 77(4): 1031-44.
- Valdini, Melody E., and Michael S. Lewis-Beck. 2018. "Economic Voting in Latin America: Rules and Responsibility." *American Journal of Political Science* 62(2): 410-23.
- Zechmeister, Elizabeth J., and Margarita Corral. 2013. "Individual and Contextual Constraints on Ideological Labels in Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 46(6): 675-701.