

James McGuire
PAC 219, 685-2487
<http://jmcguire.faculty.wesleyan.edu/>
jmcguire@wesleyan.edu

Government 302
Wesleyan University
Fall 2016

Office Hours:
Tues. & Weds., 2:00-3:30 PM
PAC 219

Class Meetings:
Tues. & Thurs., 10:30-11:50 AM
PAC 422

Latin American Politics

This course explores democracy, revolution, economic development, and living standards in Latin America. In the first part of the course we analyze the emergence, breakdown, and current state of democracy in Argentina and Brazil. In the second part we examine the causes and consequences of revolution in Cuba and Nicaragua. In each part of the course we assess the progress each country has made toward creating a more affluent, educated, healthy, and equitable society.

The course starts out by exploring the concepts of democracy, democratic consolidation, and democratic deepening. Using case studies and comparative analyses, it inquires: (1) How deeply was democracy implanted in Argentina and Brazil during the first half of the twentieth century? (2) Why did democracy break down in these countries during the 1960s and 1970s, and why was it restored in the 1980s? (3) How stable and democratic were the civilian regimes that emerged in each country in the wake of authoritarian rule? (4) Did the transition from authoritarian rule and the deepening and consolidation of democracy affect the will and capacity of Argentine and Brazilian governments to enact more effective and more just economic and social policies?

The second half of the course examines the character, causes, and consequences of revolution, focusing on the Cuban Revolution, which ousted the Batista government in 1959, and the Nicaraguan Revolution, which overthrew the Somoza dynasty in 1979. We examine the causes of each revolution; debate how to characterize each revolutionary political regime; assess whether each revolutionary government raised living standards; and identify each revolution's recent challenges.

Course Requirements

The course grade is based on two exams, a research design, a final paper, and participation.

Summary of Due Dates and Final Grade Weightings

First Exam	Oct 18 (Tu)	25%
Research Design	Nov 4 (Fr)	15%
Second Exam	Dec 8 (Th)	25%
Term Paper	Dec 15 (Th)	25%
Class Participation		10%

Initial Considerations

- (1) Please silence and tuck away all electronic devices including phones, tablets, and laptops.
- (2) Except in a dire emergency, or unless so authorized by Disabilities Resources (see p. 4), please do not leave the classroom and then return to it. Leaving the session and not returning is fine.
- (3) You must take the examinations, and hand in the research design and term paper, at the date and time indicated on this syllabus. Please do not request a personal exemption from this policy except in the event of a grave medical or family emergency.
- (4) A single instance of cheating or plagiarism will provide sufficient grounds for a grade of "F" in the entire course, not just on the assignment on which the cheating or plagiarism took place.

Examinations

Each exam is closed-book, closed-note. The first exam will be given during the class period on Tuesday, October 18. It will cover the material to date. The second exam will be given during the class period on Thursday, December 15. It will cover the material in the second part of the course.

Research Project

The research project proceeds in two stages: a research design followed by a research paper involving democracy, revolution, or human development in a Latin American country or countries. The research design should be uploaded to the course Moodle by 5:00 PM Friday, November 4. The term paper should be uploaded by 5:00 PM Thursday, December 15.

Research Design

The research design is a summary of ideas for your term paper. It should include the following components:

1. A title that captures the argument to be made or question to be answered. ("Race Relations in Socialist Cuba: Progress or Stagnation?" beats "Race Relations in Socialist Cuba.")
2. One paragraph describing the question you will answer and/or argument you will make.
3. One paragraph explaining the theoretical and/or practical significance of your topic.
4. A list of the steps by which you will answer your question or make your argument. Think of these steps as the headings and subheadings of the different sections of your paper. Stay focused: in particular, avoid long background descriptions of national history.
5. A bibliography consisting of six or more high-quality books, book chapters, and/or articles you have already read or skimmed. Except for online academic journals, internet sources don't count. Correct bibliography form is required. Any standard format -- APA, Modern Language Association, Turabian -- is fine (for these and other formats go to <http://libguides.wesleyan.edu/citing>).
6. A one-paragraph statement, for each of the three most promising sources in your bibliography, of how you will use its information and/or arguments in writing your paper.

Research Paper

The research paper is a 10-12 page expansion of the research design.

Finding Sources

For books and chapters in books, search the [online catalog](#). For articles and manuscripts try the "[Online Indexes and Databases](#)" on the library web page as well as [Google Scholar](#). Wesleyan will have access to many of the materials you find in these databases, but some may be available only through the [CTW consortium](#) or [interlibrary loan](#) (articles usually take only a couple of days; books may take a couple of weeks). You can also find new sources by following up footnotes and bibliographical references (recent books and articles are best). For [statistical data](#), go to my website and click "[Cross-National Data on the Web](#)."

You can schedule a personal research session with a reference librarian by going to <http://www.wesleyan.edu/library/howdoi/makeanappointment.html>

Class Participation

Class participation means coming to all the classes, on time, and turning in the daily file card (see below). Serious and timely engagement with the readings, which are generally few and well-written, is important to comprehension of the material. Class participation, with the file cards weighted heavily, normally counts for 10 percent of the final grade.

File-Card Requirement

1. At the beginning of each class (except on days when the research design is due or exams are given) please hand me, in person, a 3 x 5 white-colored file card with your name and the date on one side. On the other side of the file card, please include from the day's readings (a) one quotation, noting the author and page number, that you think raises a particularly interesting issue; and (b) one comment on your quotation.
2. No file cards will be accepted after 10:25 AM, for any reason whatsoever.
3. You may not turn in a file card if you do not attend class, no matter what the reason.
4. No one may turn in a file card for anyone else, under any circumstances.
5. Your quotation and comment should both fit on one side of a single file card.
6. File cards will not be returned to you, but each will be recorded as satisfactory, good, or excellent according to how carefully and thoughtfully it seems to have been done.

Obtaining Course Readings

All readings are on the course Moodle site. No books are required for this course.

Requesting Accommodation for Disabilities

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services.

To receive accommodation, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and must provide documentation of the disability.

Accommodation may require early planning, and retroactive requests for accommodation are not usually granted. Accordingly, if you believe that you need accommodation for a disability, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

Disability Resources is located in North College, Room 021. Please phone (860) 685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and to review the process for requesting accommodation.

Summary of Course Schedule

Tu Sep 6	Overview of the Course
Th Sep 8	Democracy and Democratic Consolidation
Tu Sep 13	Argentina: Distributive Conflict, Political Parties, and Democracy
Th Sep 15	Argentina: Prelude to Perón
Tu Sep 20	Argentina: Peronism and Its Legacy
Th Sep 22	Argentina: Military Rule/Transition to Democracy; J. Piscopo lecture 4:30
Tu Sep 27	Argentina: Three Decades of Democracy, Alfonsín to the Kirchners
Th Sep 29	Argentina: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 4	Brazil: Geography and History
Th Oct 6	Brazil: Social Structure and Politics
Tu Oct 11	Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Th Oct 13	Brazil: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 18	First Examination
Th Oct 20	[No class: instructor at a conference; makeup class was Sept. 22, 4:30 PM]
Th Oct 27	Revolution: Definition and Causes
Tu Nov 1	Cuba: Causes of Revolution
Th Nov 3	Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959? [Research design due Friday Nov 4, 5 PM]
Tu Nov 8	Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic?
Th Nov 10	Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989
Tu Nov 15	Cuba: Contemporary Politics
Th Nov 17	Nicaragua: Causes of Revolution
Tu Nov 22	Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic?
Tu Nov 29	Nicaragua: Were Nicaraguans Better Off After the Revolution?
Th Dec 1	Nicaragua: The Quality of Democracy, 1990-2006
Tu Dec 6	Nicaragua: Is Contemporary Nicaragua Democratic?
Th Dec 8	Second Examination
Th Dec 15	Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM

TOPICS AND READINGS

- Tu Sep 6 Overview of the Course (no assigned reading)
- Th Sep 8 Democracy and Democratic Consolidation
- Dahl, Robert. On Democracy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998, 35-43, 83-99.
- Schedler, Andreas. "What is Democratic Consolidation?" Journal of Democracy 9 No. 2 (April 1998), 91-107.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo. "Horizontal Accountability in New Democracies." Journal of Democracy 9 No. 3 (July 1998), 112-126.
- Tu Sep 13 Argentina: Distributive Conflict, Political Parties, and Democracy
- McGuire, James W. "Political Parties and Democracy in Argentina." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995, 200-246.
- Th Sep 15 Argentina: Prelude to Perón
- Potter, Anne L. "The Failure of Democracy in Argentina 1916-1930: An Institutional Perspective." Journal of Latin American Studies 13 No. 1 (May 1981), 83-109.
- Tu Sep 20 Argentina: Perónism and Its Legacy
- Winn, Peter. "A Second Independence?" Chap. 4 of Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean. New York: Pantheon, 1992, 123-154.
- Th Sep 22 Argentina: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
- Graziano, Frank. "The Dirty War in Thematic Context." Chap. 1 of Divine Violence: Spectacle, Psychosexuality, and Radical Christianity in the Argentine "Dirty War". Boulder: Westview Press, 1992, 15-59.
- Note: In addition to the usual class session from 10:20 to 11:40, there's a required lecture on gender and politics in Argentina and Mexico September 22 at 4:30 in PAC 002. It's a makeup for the October 20 10:20 - 11:40 class, when the instructor will be away at a conference.
- Tu Sep 27 Argentina: Three Decades of Democracy, Alfonsín to the Kirchners
- Levitsky, Steven. "Argentina: Democratic Survival Amidst Economic Failure." Chapter 2 in Frances Hagopian and Scott P. Mainwaring, The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks. Cambridge, UK and New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 63-89.

Th Sep 29 Argentina: Contemporary Politics

Calvo, Ernesto, and María Victoria Murillo. "Argentina: The Persistence of Peronism." Journal of Democracy 23 No. 2 (April 2012), 148-161.

Freytes, Carlos, and Sara Niedzwiecki. "A Turning Point in Argentine Politics: Demands for Change and Territorial Cleavages in the 2015 Presidential Election." Regional and Federal Studies (2016), online before print, 1-12.

Tu Oct 4 Brazil: Geography and History

Bethell, Leslie. "Politics in Brazil: From Elections without Democracy to Democracy without Citizenship." Daedalus 129 No. 2 (Spring 2000), 1-27.

Carvalho, José Murilo de. "Dreams Come Untrue." Daedalus 129 No. 2 (Spring 2000), 57-82.

Th Oct 6 Brazil: Social Structure and Politics

Mainwaring, Scott. "Patronage, Clientelism, and Patrimonialism." Chapter 6 in Mainwaring, Rethinking Party Systems in the Third Wave of Democratization: The Brazilian Case. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999, 176-218. Also in Wesleyan's collection of electronic books.

Tu Oct 11 Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy

Skidmore, Thomas. "Rule of the Military." Chapter 7 in Thomas Skidmore, Brazil: Five Centuries of Change. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 153-179.

Th Oct 13 Brazil: Contemporary Politics

Power, Timothy J. "Brazilian Democracy as a Late Bloomer: Reevaluating the Regime in the Cardoso-Lula Era." Latin American Research Review 45 (2010), S218-247.

Hagopian, Frances. "Brazil's Accountability Paradox." Journal of Democracy 27 No. 3 (July 2016), 119-128.

Doctor, Marukh. "Country Focus: Brazil." Political Insight 7 No. 2 (September 2016), 732-735.

Tu Oct 18 **First Examination, in class**

Th Oct 20 [No class: instructor at a conference; makeup class was Sept. 22, 4:30 PM]

Tu Oct 25 FALL BREAK

Th Oct 27 Revolution: Definition and Causes

Crahan, Margaret E., and Peter H. Smith. "The State of Revolution." In Alfred Stepan, ed., Americas: New Interpretive Essays. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992, 79-108.

Tu Nov 1 Cuba: Causes of Revolution

Wolf, Eric. "Cuba." In Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century. New York: Harper Colophon, 1969, 251-273.

Domínguez, Jorge. "Cuba Since 1959." In Leslie Bethell, ed., Cuba: A Short History. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 95-124.

Th Nov 3 Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959?

Domínguez, Jorge. "Cuba Since 1959." In Leslie Bethell, ed., Cuba: A Short History. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 124-148.

Fr Nov 4 Research Design due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM.

Tu Nov 8 Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic?

Ritter, Archibald R. M. "The Organs of People's Power and the Communist Party: The Nature of Cuban Democracy." In Sandor Halebsky and John M. Kirk, eds., Cuba: Twenty-Five Years of Revolution, 1959-1984. New York: Praeger, 1985, 270-290.

Luciak, Ilja. "The Cuban Political System: Competing Visions of Democracy." Chapter 3 of Ilja Luciak, Gender and Democracy in Cuba. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2007, 37-62.

Th Nov 10 Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989

Morris, Emily. "Unexpected Cuba." New Left Review 88 (2014): 5-45.

De la Fuente, Alejandro. "Recreating Racism: Race and Discrimination in Cuba's Special Period." In Philip Brenner et al., eds., A Contemporary Cuba Reader: Recreating the Revolution. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008, 316-325.

Tu Nov 15 Cuba: Contemporary Politics

LeoGrande, William M. "Cuba's Perilous Political Transition to the Post-Castro Era." Journal of Latin American Studies 47 No. 2 (May 2015), 377-405.

Whitehead, Laurence "The 'Puzzle' of Autocratic Resilience/Regime Collapse: The Case of Cuba." Third World Quarterly 37 No. 9 (2016), 1666-1682.

Th Nov 17 Nicaragua: Causes of Revolution

Dix, Robert. "Why Revolutions Succeed and Fail." *Polity* 16 No. 3 (Spring 1984), 423-446.

Booth, John A., Christine J. Wade, and Thomas W. Walker. Chapter 5 ("Nicaragua") of Understanding Central America: Global Forces, Rebellion, and Change. 6th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014, 97-136.

Tu Nov 22 Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic?

LASA (Latin American Studies Association). "The Electoral Process in Nicaragua: Domestic and International Influences." In Peter Rosset and John Vandermeer, eds., Nicaragua: Unfinished Revolution. New York: Grove Press, 1986, 73-107.

Kinzer, Stephen. "Action Democracy." Chap. 15 of Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1991, 222-250.

Tu Nov 29 Nicaragua: Were Nicaraguans Better Off After the Revolution?

Linfield, Michael. "Human Rights." In Thomas Walker, ed., Revolution and Counterrevolution in Nicaragua. Boulder: Westview Press, 1991, 275-294.

Lancaster, Roger N. Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992, 1-21.

Th Dec 1 Nicaragua: The Quality of Democracy, 1990-2006

McConnell, Shelley A. "Nicaragua's Pacted Democracy." Chapter 5 in Cynthia Arnson, ed., In the Wake of War: Democratization and Internal Armed Conflict in Latin America. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2012, 139-174.

Tu Dec 6 Nicaragua: Is Contemporary Nicaragua Democratic?

Close, David. "Dominant Power and Personalistic Rule, 2011-Present." Chapter 7 in *Nicaragua: Navigating the Politics of Democracy*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2016.

McConnell, Shelley A. "The 2011 Presidential and Legislative Elections in Nicaragua." Electoral Studies 24 (2014), 300-303.

Th Dec 8 **Second Examination, in class.**Th Dec 15 **Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM**