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Government 302
Wesleyan University
Fall 2017

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

Class Meetings:
Tues. & Thurs., 10:30-11:50 AM
PAC 421

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 begins by exploring the concepts of democracy, democratic consolidation, and democratic deepening. Using case studies and comparative analyses, we investigate: (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 19 (Th)	25%
Research Design	Nov 3 (Fr)	15%
Second Exam	Dec 7 (Th)	25%
Term Paper	Dec 14 (Th)	25%
Class Participation		10%

Honor Code

Any instance of cheating or plagiarism will suffice for a grade of "F" for the entire course.

Electronics

Cellular phones, laptop computers, tablets, digital assistants, or other potentially disruptive or distracting electronic devices are not to be used in the classroom except as an authorized accommodation (p. 4).

Examinations

Each exam is closed-book, closed-note. The first exam will be given during the class period on Thursday, October 19. It will cover the material to date. The second exam will be given during the class period on Thursday, December 7. 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 3. The term paper should be uploaded by 5:00 PM Thursday, December 14.

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 sources by following up footnotes and bibliographical references (recent books and articles are best). The main sources of cross-national statistical data are linked at <http://jmcmguire.faculty.wesleyan.edu/welcome/cross-national-data/> You can schedule an individualized research session with a reference librarian at <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. Due at the beginning of each class (except on exam days) is a 3 x 5 white-colored file card with your name and the date on one side and, on the other, (a) one quotation, noting the author and page number, that you think raises an interesting issue; and (b) one comment on your quotation. Your quotation and comment should fit on one side of a single file card and should be easily legible.
2. No file cards will be accepted after 10:25 AM.
3. You may not turn in a file card if you do not attend class.
4. No one may turn in a file card for anyone else.
5. File cards will not be returned, but each will be recorded as satisfactory, good, or excellent, according to how thoughtfully it seems to have been done. At the end of the semester each student's class participation grade will be based heavily, although not entirely, on the file card marks.

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 5	Overview of the Course
Th Sep 7	Democracy and Democratic Consolidation
Tu Sep 12	Argentina: Distributive Conflict, Political Parties, and Democracy
Th Sep 14	Argentina: Prelude to Perón
Tu Sep 19	Argentina: Peronism and Its Legacy
Th Sep 21	Argentina: Military Rule/Transition to Democracy
Tu Sep 26	Argentina: Three Decades of Democracy, Alfonsín to the Kirchners
Th Sep 28	Argentina: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 3	Brazil: Geography and History
Th Oct 5	Brazil: Social Structure and Politics
Tu Oct 10	Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Th Oct 12	Brazil: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 17	Brazil: Democracy and Social Policy
Th Oct 19	First Examination
Th Oct 26	Revolution: Definition and Causes
Tu Oct 31	Cuba: Causes of Revolution
Th Nov 2	Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959? [Research design due Friday Nov 3, 5 PM]
Tu Nov 7	Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic?
Th Nov 9	[No class - instructor away at a conference]
Tu Nov 14	Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989
Th Nov 16	Nicaragua: Causes of Revolution
Tu Nov 21	Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic?
Tu Nov 28	Nicaragua: Were Nicaraguans Better Off After the Revolution?
Th Nov 30	Nicaragua: The Quality of Democracy, 1990-2006
Tu Dec 5	Nicaragua: Is Contemporary Nicaragua Democratic?
Th Dec 7	Second Examination
Th Dec 14	Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM

TOPICS AND READINGS

- Tu Sep 5 Overview of the Course (no assigned reading)
- Th Sep 7 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 12 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 14 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 19 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 21 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.
- Tu Sep 26 Argentina: Three Decades of Democracy, Alfonsín to the Kirchners (1983-2015)
- 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 28 Argentina: Contemporary Politics

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

Lupu, Noam. "The End of the Kirchner Era." *Journal of Democracy* 27 No. 2 (April 2016), 35-49.

Tu Oct 3 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 5 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 10 Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy

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

Th Oct 12 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.

Kingstone, Peter R., and Timothy J. Power. "A Fourth Decade of Brazilian Democracy: Achievements, Challenges, and Polarization." In Kingstone and Power, eds., *Democratic Brazil Divided*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017, 3-23.

Tu Oct 17 Brazil: Democracy and Social Policy

Hunter, Wendy A., and Natasha Borges Sugiyama. "Democracy and Social Policy in Brazil: Advancing Basic Needs, Preserving Privileged Interests." *Latin American Politics and Society* 51 No. 2 (Summer 2009), 29-57.

Wong, Joseph. "Reaching the Hard To Reach: A Case Study of Brazil's Bolsa Família Program." University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs, Dec. 2015. Also at <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/research-articles/bolsa-familia-case-study-final/>

Th Oct 19 **First Examination, in class**

Tu Oct 24 FALL BREAK

Th Oct 26 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 Oct 31 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 2 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 3 Research Design due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM.

Tu Nov 7 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 9 No class - instructor away at a conference

Tu Nov 14 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.

Th Nov 16 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 21 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.

Th Nov 23 No class -- Thanksgiving

Tu Nov 28 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 Nov 30 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 5 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.

Thaler, Kai M. "Nicaragua: A Return to Caudillismo." *Journal of Democracy* 28 No. 2 (April 2017), 157-169.

Th Dec 7 **Second Examination, in class.**

Th Dec 14 **Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM**