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Government 302
Wesleyan University
Fall 2024

Office Hours:
Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 PM
Public Affairs Center, Office 409

Class Meetings:
Tues. & Thurs., 10:20-11:40 AM
PAC 301

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, autocracy, democratization, and autocratization. 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 and 1990s? (3) Why did Argentina and Brazil, after becoming more democratic in the 1980s and 1990s, turn more autocratic in recent years? (4) How did democracy and democratization, as well as autocracy and autocratization, affect the will and capacity of Argentine and Brazilian governments to enact more effective and 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 country's recent challenges.

Course Requirements

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

Summary of Due Dates and Final Grade Weightings

First Exam	Oct 17 (Thursday)	25%
Research Design	Nov 1 (Friday)	10%
Second Exam	Dec 5 (Thursday)	25%
Term Paper	Dec 12 (Thursday)	25%
Class Participation		15%

Honor Code

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

Examinations

There are two blue book examinations, one covering the first half of the course and the other the second half. Blue book exams are written by hand in a blue book during a single class period, without notes or electronic devices. The first blue book exam, on Thursday, October 17, will cover the material to date. The second, on Thursday, December 5, 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 1. The term paper should be uploaded by 5:00 PM Thursday, December 12.

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. Correct bibliography form is required. Any standard format -- APA, Modern Language Association, Turabian -- is fine, as long as it is used properly and consistently. 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.

Artificial Intelligence

Among the purposes of a college education are to help you improve your writing and to enable you to distinguish good sources from poor sources of information, opinion, and argument. If you rely on artificial intelligence (AI) tools like Chat GPT to help write your research design or term paper, or like Elicit to help find sources, this won't happen. Please conclude your research design and term paper with a statement indicating whether you used AI. If you did use AI, describe how you used it. If you didn't use AI, write something like "I didn't use AI at any point in this assignment."

Last year students who wrote that they had used AI for "creative insight," to "organize" written work, for "help with citations," etc., often triggered the turnitin.com AI detector, which is integrated into the Moodle site where you upload your written work. I've set the Moodle to allow you to see your "similarity score" (plagiarism detector) after you upload your work. If you agree that any passages flagged by turnitin.com were plagiarized, delete your uploaded research design or paper and submit a new one. Perplexingly, the instructor but not the student can see the uploaded document's AI score, with problematic passages flagged. I will let you know if this happens, and will send you the score and the document with the problematic passages highlighted, so you can explain.

Finding Sources

For books and chapters in books, use [OneSearch](#) on the Wesleyan library home page. For articles and manuscripts try the [databases on the library web page](#) as well as [Google Scholar](#). Cross-country statistical data are linked at <http://jmcguire.faculty.wesleyan.edu/welcome/cross-national-data/>

Wesleyan will enable you to have immediate access to many of the materials you locate through these portals, but some may be available only through the CTW consortium or interlibrary loan (articles usually take only a couple of days; books may take longer). You can also find sources by following up footnotes and bibliographical references (recent books and articles are best). To consult a librarian on research strategies, fill out a [Personal Research Session Request Form](#). If you've read this far in the syllabus, send me an email. The first student to email me gets a free course pack.

Obtaining Course Readings

All readings are available on the course Moodle site. No books are required for this course. I've arranged with Cardinal Print to have a **Course Pack** put together for this course. There will be two volumes, the first covering Argentina and Brazil and the second Cuba and Nicaragua. It will take three weeks to prepare the first volume, so download the readings through September 19 from the Moodle (they won't be in the first volume, which will start with the readings for September 24). When the course pack is ready, you may either view a digital file for free or order a printed copy for a charge. Last year up to 100 double-sided pages cost \$15.00, up to 150 cost \$22.00, up to 200 cost \$30.00, etc. To view a digital copy or to purchase a printed copy of the Course Pack, log into WesPortal, go to Courses, and select Course Packs.

Accessibility Services

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 accommodations, a student must have a disability as defined by the ADA. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

If you have a disability, or think that you might have a disability, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) in order to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Accessibility Services is located in North College, room 021 or can be reached by email (accessibility@wesleyan.edu) or phone (860-685-2332).

Mental Health Resources

Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. Reach out to the resources below to support your mental health and well-being:

- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) - 860-685-2910 (available 24/7) or counseling@wesleyan.edu.
- [WesWell](#) - weswell@wesleyan.edu or 860-685-3027
 - [Wellness Coaching](#) - Individual support to work on developing well-being skills.
 - [Resource Room](#) - WesWell has a resource room for your health and well-being needs that are free to all students.

Title IX Resources

If past trauma inhibits your ability to fully participate in class, please contact Debbie Colucci, Deputy Title IX Coordinator, at dcolucci@wesleyan.edu, or your class dean. Additionally, and if you are comfortable, you can work directly with your professor to make reasonable arrangements. If you would like to talk with a confidential resource about all of your options for care and support under Title IX, you can contact Amanda Carrington (Associate Director for Sexual Violence Prevention) at acarrington@wesleyan.edu.

Religious/Spiritual Observance Resources:

If you anticipate that your religious/spiritual observance may conflict with academic obligations such as attending class, taking examinations, or submitting assignments, you can work directly with your professor to make reasonable arrangements. Should you require additional support or guidance, please feel free to contact Rabbi David Leipziger Teva, Director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at dleipziger@wesleyan.edu, or any of the chaplains in the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at <https://www.wesleyan.edu/orsl/index.html>.

For a list of a religious holidays celebrated by members of the Wesleyan community, go to Wesleyan's Multifaith calendar which can be found at: <https://www.wesleyan.edu/orsl/multifaith-calendar.html>.

Summary of Course Schedule

Tu Sep 3	Overview of the Course
Th Sep 5	Democracy, Autocracy, Democratization, and Autocratization
Tu Sep 10	Argentina: Distributive Conflict, Political Parties, and Democracy
Th Sep 12	Argentina: Prelude to Perón
Tu Sep 17	Argentina: Peronism and Its Legacy
Th Sep 19	Argentina: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Tu Sep 24	Argentina: Alfonsín to the Kirchners, 1983-2015
Th Sep 26	Argentina: Contemporary Politics
Tu Oct 1	Brazil: Geography and History
Th Oct 3	Brazil: Social Structure and Politics
Tu Oct 8	Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy
Th Oct 10	Brazil: Politics Under Civilian Rule, 1985-2018
Tu Oct 15	Brazil: Contemporary Politics
Th Oct 17	First Examination
Th Oct 24	Revolution: Definition and Causes
Tu Oct 29	Cuba: Causes of Revolution
Th Oct 31	Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959?
Fri Nov 1	Research design due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM
Tu Nov 5	Cuba: Is Revolutionary Cuba Democratic?
Th Nov 7	Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989
Tu Nov 12	Nicaragua: Causes of Revolution
Th Nov 14	Nicaragua: Was Revolutionary Nicaragua Democratic?
Tu Nov 19	Nicaragua: Were Nicaraguans Better Off After the Revolution?
Th Nov 21	Nicaragua: The Quality of Democracy, 1990-2006
Tu Nov 26	Nicaragua: Dismantling Democracy, 2007-2018
Tu Dec 3	Nicaragua: Autocratizing Autocracy, 2018-2024
Th Dec 5	Second Examination
Th Dec 12	Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM

TOPICS AND READINGS

Tu Sep 3 Overview of the Course

No assigned reading

Th Sep 5 Conceptualizing Democracy

Dahl, Robert. *On Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.
Chapter 4 (35-43), Chapter 8 (83-99).

Skaaning, Svend-Erik (2021). "Democracy: Contested Concept with a Common Core." Chapter 1 in Gordon Crawford and Abdul-Gafaru Abdulai, eds., *Research Handbook on Democracy and Development*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 27-43.

Tu Sep 10 Argentina: Distributive Conflict, Political Parties, and Democracy

McGuire, James W. "Political Parties and Democracy in Argentina." Chapter 7 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 12 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 17 Argentina: Peronism 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 19 Argentina: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy

Graziano, Frank. "The Dirty War in Thematic Context." Chapter 1 of *Divine Violence: Spectacle, Psychosexuality, and Radical Christianity in the Argentine "Dirty War"*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1992, 15-59.

Tu Sep 24 Argentina: Alfonsín to Duhalde, 1989-2003

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 26 Argentina: Contemporary Politics

Mainwaring, Scott, and Emilia Simison. "Economic Crises, Military Rebellions, and Democratic Survival: Argentina, 1983-2021." Chapter 7 in Scott Mainwaring and Tarek Masoud, eds., *Democracy in Hard Places*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022, 188-227.

Labaqui, Ignacio. "Six Months of Javier Milei." *Latin American Policy*. Online before print (August 19, 2024) at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/lamp.12358>

Tu Oct 1 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 3 Brazil: Social Structure and Politics

Mainwaring, Scott. "Patronage, Clientelism, and Patrimonialism." Chapter 6 of *Rethinking Party Systems in the Third Wave of Democratization: The Brazilian Case*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999, 176-218.

Tu Oct 8 Brazil: Military Rule and the Transition to Democracy

Skidmore, Thomas. "Rule of the Military: 1964-1985." Chapter 7 of *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change*. New York: Oxford University Press, 159-188.

Th Oct 10 Brazil: Politics Under Civilian Rule, 1985-2018

Kingstone, Peter R., and Timothy J. Power. "A Fourth Decade of Brazilian Democracy: Achievements, Challenges, and Polarization." Chapter 1 in Kingstone and Power, eds., *Democratic Brazil Divided*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017, 3-23.

Tu Oct 15 Brazil: Contemporary Politics

Hunter, Wendy and Timothy J. Power. "Lula's Second Act." *Journal of Democracy* 34 No. 1 (April 2023), 126-140.

Th Oct 17 **First Examination**Th Oct 24 Revolution: Definition and Causes

Crahan, Margaret E., and Peter H. Smith. "The State of Revolution." Chapter 4 in Alfred Stepan, ed., *Americas: New Interpretive Essays*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992, 79-108.

Tu Oct 29 Cuba: Causes of Revolution

Wolf, Eric. "Cuba." Chapter 6 in *Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Harper Colophon, 1969, 251-273.

Domínguez, Jorge. "Cuba Since 1959." Chapter 4 in Leslie Bethell, ed., *Cuba: A Short History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 95-124.

Th Oct 31 Cuba: Did Life Improve After 1959?

Domínguez, Jorge. "Cuba Since 1959." Chapter 4 in Leslie Bethell, ed., *Cuba: A Short History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 124-148.

Fri Nov 1 Research Design Due

Tu Nov 5 Cuba: Political System and Race Relations [Also: US presidential election today]

Ritter, Archibald R. M. "The Organs of People's Power and the Communist Party: The Nature of Cuban Democracy." Chapter 14 in Sandor Halebsky and John M. Kirk, eds., *Cuba: Twenty-Five Years of Revolution, 1959-1984*. New York: Praeger, 1985, 270-290.

de la Fuente, Alejandro, and Stanley R. Bailey. "The Puzzle of Racial Inequality in Cuba, 1980s–2010s." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 18 No. 1 (2021), 73-96.

Th Nov 7 Cuba: Economy and Society Since 1989

Pedraza, Silvia, and Carlos A. Romero. "Contemporary Crises in Cuba: Economic, Political, and Social." *FIU Law Review* 17 (2023), 609-633.

Kunzmann, Marcel. "Journey into the Unknown." *International Journal of Cuban Studies* 16 No. 1 (Summer 2024), 9-30.

Tu Nov 12 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. "Nicaragua." Chapter 5 in *Understanding Central America: Global Forces, Rebellion, and Change*. 6th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014, 97-136.

Th Nov 14 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." Chapter 15 in *Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1991, 222-250.

Tu Nov 19 Nicaragua: Were Nicaraguans Better Off After the Revolution?

Linfield, Michael. "Human Rights." Chapter 13 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 21 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, 139-173.

Tu Nov 26 Nicaragua: Dismantling Democracy, 2007-2018

Close, David. "Dominant Power and Personalistic Rule, 2011-Present." Chapter 7 in *Nicaragua: Navigating the Politics of Democracy*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2016, 135-161.

Morris, Courtney Desiree. "Ortega Faces a New Nicaraguan Opposition Movement." *Current History* 118 No. 805 (February 2019), 62-67.

Tu Dec 3 Nicaragua: Autocratizing Autocracy, 2018-2024

Thaler, Kai M., and Eric Mosinger. "Nicaragua: Doubling Down on Dictatorship." *Journal of Democracy* 33 No. 2, 2022, 133-146.

Th Dec 5 **Second Examination**

Th Dec 12 **Term paper due: please upload to Moodle by 5 PM**