Politics of Latin America

Latin America is one of the most complex regions of the world. It is the home to more than 600 million people in thirty-four countries. Profound differences in geography, history, people, culture, religion, economics, and political structure exist throughout this region. While decades of rapid economic growth have increased the standard of living for many, poverty and inequality continue to be prevalent in many Latin American countries. Continuing economic growth and possible economic unification along European lines should alleviate this situation over time.

After years of authoritarian rule, most citizens of Latin America today enjoy democratic rights such as free elections. However, a recent trend towards the authoritarian left in countries such as Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Bolivia threatens these democratic accomplishments.

This course offers a broad overview of the region, analyzing six of the thirty-four nations making up Latin America. Each nation will be analyzed in detail with lectures and discussions on the history, culture, political and economic structure of each country. In addition theories such as Dependency Theory, Marxism, Neo-Liberalism and State Capitalism will be introduced to the student.

Finally, the importance of the region to the United States both economically and geopolitically will be demonstrated and common misperceptions of Latin America will be put to rest.

Learning Outcomes:
After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science and Comparative Politics
- basic knowledge of a variety of histories, cultures, and ideologies and their impact on Latin America
- an understanding of major governmental and economic structures throughout Latin America
- comprehension of the interrelationships of domestic policies and international events

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00-11:00 am, 1:00-2:00 pm. or by appointment.
Wednesday: 5:00 pm. until 6:00 pm.

Class Meetings:
Classes will meet Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in BUS 258.
**Texts:**
The following texts are required and are available for purchase at the campus bookstore.
*Hugo Chavez; Kozloff, Nikolas.*

**Course Requirements:**
1. Attendance of Class Meetings
2. Successful completion of a mid-term to be held on October 3, 2012.
4. Successful completion of a 30 minute power point presentation on a Latin American political party.

**Attendance and Grading Policy:**
Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The presentation is worth an additional 100 points and will be discussed in detail in class. The grading scale will be the following:
A=300-270 points
B=269-240 points
C=239-210 points
D=209-180 points
F=179 or fewer points

**POLICIES THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at [http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar](http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar). Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.
Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.
The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
☐ Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
☐ Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
☐ Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
☐ Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@utttyler.edu

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.
Emergency Exits and Evacuation:
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Course Outline:

Introduction Vanden and Prevost, Chapters 1-6

Part One: South America
A. Chile Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 17
B. Argentina Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 16
C. Brazil Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 15
D. Venezuela Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 18 and Kozloff, entire book

Part Two: The Caribbean
A. Cuba Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 14

Part Three: Mexico and Central America
A. Mexico Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 13

Part Four: Economic Development and Regional Integration/ Politics and Democracy
Vanden and Prevost, Chapters 7 and 11