

Latin America in World Politics (PSCI 259)

Fall 2015

M-W 9:15AM - 10:30AM | Rathaus 210

Professor Jorge Antonio Alves
jorge.alves@qc.cuny.edu
(718) 997-5414

Office Hours:
Mon-Wed 11am-12:00pm, or by appointment.
Powdermaker Hall 200Y

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the shifting ways Latin American countries have engaged with the world political and economic systems from the colonial period to recent years. It focuses on the political economy of the international system as well as the effect of international security politics. We examine key questions such as: What external actors do countries in the region see as the important “other”? What strategies have Latin American countries, large and small, pursued to cope with these powerful actors? What roles do Latin American nations take in the international system? Is there any room for agency? We attempt to answer these questions by focusing on a broad sample of the region, ranging from the Southern Cone, the Andes, Central America and the Caribbean, with special attention to larger players.

We begin by examining the colonial relationships between Latin America and European powers in order to understand colonialism’s legacy in terms of political and economic institutions. We quickly turn to the relationship between young Latin American nations and their more powerful neighbor in the north. After examining early US Imperialism and an attempt “good neighbor” politics, we then focus on the impact of the Cold War. In this period, we survey economic nationalism in Latin America, as well as the US’s erratic support for democracy, particularly in the aftermath of the Cuban Revolution.

We then switch to the rise of the Neoliberal world order based on free markets and liberal democracy. We discuss the logic of market reforms, the role of international financial institutions, and the spread of globalization and integration theories. Free-market reforms fell well short of expectations; therefore we examine the resulting backlash against Neoliberalism and its main sponsors. We also dedicate significant time to examining the current era, when we examine the two main hemispheric alternatives to US leadership, proposed by Brazil and Venezuela, the rise of China as a global power, and the current state of cross-national issues such as promotion of democracy, human rights, security, environmental and immigration politics.

Course Objectives

- 1) Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to speak in an informed manner about the main issues that Latin American nations face in regional, hemispheric and global settings.
- 2) Students will also be able to understand the historical, institutional and economic forces that have shaped Latin America’s participation in international politics.
- 3) Students will learn to apply major theories of international relations to issues specific to Latin America.
- 4) Students will learn to read a variety of sources, including primary accounts, news coverage, as well as academic publications, such as books and peer-reviewed articles. Students will also learn to assess arguments and evaluate use of evidence.
- 5) Students will learn to communicate their thoughts clearly and coherently in writing.

Course Requirements

Exams (2)	45%
Papers (2)	35%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%

- Students will submit 2 written assignments (4-5 pages) over the course of the semester. Details for papers will be distributed during the course of the semester. Papers must be uploaded to Blackboard by the assigned time or be considered late.
- Exams will be conducted in class, consisting of short-answer and essay questions. Exams will follow a similar format.
- In addition, we will have occasional in-class quizzes that test students' basic recall of major points covered in class. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class, so please arrive on time.
- Attendance is mandatory, and you are expected to participate.

Readings

There are no books to purchase for this class. Course readings are available in the course's Blackboard website. All students will be required to obtain access to Blackboard and check it regularly for announcements. You can login to Blackboard through the CUNY main page: <http://www.cuny.edu>. I reserve the right to make changes to the reading assignments throughout the semester, and any such changes will be announced via email and on the course's Blackboard site.

Students are expected to complete readings before the scheduled class and to come prepared to participate actively in class discussion. Be prepared to summarize the main points in the readings to your peers. Of course, it is ok if you do not understand something; in those cases, bring good questions.

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

Late papers will be penalized by the loss of a third of a grade per day late. Exceptions will be made only in the case of proven medical emergencies. Work must be made-up within two weeks to be considered. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Grading and Appeals

There is no grading curve in this class. Consequently, it is possible that every single student could earn an A+. I value transparency in grading, and am cognizant of the possibility of mistakes. I will gladly discuss grading with students, but will do so only in person, during office hours or by appointment.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should register with and provide documentation to the Office of Special Services, located in 111 Frese Hall by the first week of class. OSS will provide you with a letter for you to bring to me indicating the necessary accommodations.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, purchasing papers, and/or cheating in exams, will be sanctioned according to the CUNY's Academic Integrity Policy. If in doubt, err on the side of caution, citing the source. Refer to QC's policy at: <http://goo.gl/2nCuk>. If you need help with your writing, visit <http://writingatqueens.org/>.

One Last Caveat

I consider this syllabus to be a contract between you and me that lays out expectations for both of us. I will do my best to keep changes to a minimum. I do, however, withhold the right to make changes throughout the course of the semester to adapt it to our needs. Whenever possible, I will include the class in the decision. In doubt, I will always err on the side of *lightening* the load to students.

General Advice

Succeeding in this course is a direct product of your own effort. Here are some general tips:

- *Do the reading.* Lectures are not a substitute for the readings. Readings provide depth and nuance to the topics we study and are chance for you to actively participate in your own learning.
- *Read critically:* Focus on the big picture to glean the main arguments in the texts. Think about the logic of the arguments and draw linkages and contrasts among the texts.
- *Come to class.* Lectures will break down and highlight the main take-home points in the readings. At the same time, lectures go beyond the readings and help you make broader connections.
- *Participate.* Don't be passive receivers of information. Be active in your own education. Feel free to interrupt me with questions or comments. Don't let me move on to another topic if you are not ready.
- *Be respectful.* Especially to each other, but also to me. This includes keeping a respectful tone during class discussions, and listening attentively when your peers speak. Put your mobile phones on silent mode and away and do not use your computers for anything other than note-taking.
- *Enjoy yourself.* College is fun. Remember to stop and smell the roses.

Course Schedule:

Colonialism, Imperialism and the World Wars

Aug 31 (Mon) Course Introduction – Discussion: Images of Latin America

Sep 02 (Wed) European Colonialism

****Quiz #1 (Map):****

Skidmore, Thomas E., Peter H. Smith, and James N. Green. 2010. *Modern Latin America, 7th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch.2: "The Colonial Foundations," pp.14-41.

Sep 07 (Mon) --No Class--

Sep 09 (Wed) US Imperialism

Smith, Peter H. 2008. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, The United States, and the World*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1: "The European Game", pp. 13-42.

Sep 10 (Thu)** Good Neighbors and the Construction of the Inter-American System

Williams, Mark E. 2012. *Understanding U.S.-Latin American Relations*. New York: Routledge. Ch. 5: "Hemispheric Relations Through World War II," pp.115-145.

Sep 14 (Mon) --No Class--

Sep 16 (Wed) Nationalism and State-led Development

Kingstone, Peter. 2011. *The Political Economy of Latin America*. New York: Routledge. Ch.2: "Import-Substitution Industrialization and the Great Transformation in Latin America," pp.19-44.

Cold War Politics

Sep 21 (Mon) The US Seeks Allies Against Communism

****Quiz #2****

Smith. 2008. Ch. 4, pp. 113-147.

Sep 23 (Wed) --No Class--

Sep 28 (Mon) The Cuban Revolution

Welch Jr., Richard E. 1985. *Response to Revolution: The United States and the Cuban Revolution, 1959-1961*. Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press. Ch.1: "Chronology, Myths, and Phases," pp.3-26.

Williams. 2012. pp.177-187.

Sep 30 (Wed) The US Fights Insurgents Across Latin America

Smith. 2008. Ch. 5, pp. 148-180.

Oct 05 (Mon) The Third Wave of Democratization

Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. 2005. "Latin American Democratizations Since 1978." In Frances Hagopian and Scott P. Mainwaring, Eds, *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America: Advances and Setbacks*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, pp. 14-59.

Oct 07 (Wed) 1980s: The Lost Decade

Green, Duncan. 2003. *Silent Revolution: The Rise and Crisis of Market Economics in Latin America*. New York: Monthly Review Press. Ch.3, pp. 72-90.

Oct 12 (Mon) --No Class--

Oct 14 (Wed) **Exam 1** (in-class)

Globalization, Neoliberalism and Integration

Oct 19 (Mon) What is Neoliberalism? How did it become the "only game in town"?

Smith. 2008. pp. 213-219.

Kingstone. 2011. pp.45-67.

Oct 21 (Wed) Enter the International Financial Institutions

Green. 2003. Ch.2, pp. 39-71.

Oct 26 (Mon) Hemispheric Agreement at Last?

Corrales, Javier, and Richard E. Feinberg. 1999. "Regimes of Cooperation in the Western Hemisphere: Power, Interests, and Intellectual Traditions." *International Studies Quarterly*, 43(1): 1-36.

Oct 28 (Wed) Bandwagoning: Mexico Joins NAFTA

Zepeda, Eduardo, Timothy A. Wise, and Kevin Gallagher. 2009. "Rethinking Trade Policy for Development: Lessons from Mexico Under NAFTA." Carnegie Endowment for World Peace Policy Outlook.

Wise, Carol, and Joshua Tuynman. 2014. "[NAFTA@20: A Bittersweet Celebration.](#)" *Americas Quarterly*.

****Paper 1 Due on Oct 30 at 10 PM (Blackboard Upload)****

Nov 02 (Mon) Balancing: Brazil, Argentina and Mercosur

AS/COA. 2012. "[Explainer: What Is Mercosur?](#)"

Grabendorff, Wolf. 1999. "Mercosur and the European Union: From Cooperation to Alliance?" In Riordan Roett, Ed., *Mercosur: Regional Integration, World Markets*. New York, Lynne Rienner. pp. 95-108.

Roett. 1999. pp.111-117.

The Economist. 2012. "[Mercosur RIP?](#)"

The Backlash and the Search for Alternatives

Nov 04 (Wed) Step 1: Neoliberal Crisis and the Latin American Turn to the Left

****Quiz #3****

Kingstone. 2011. pp. 68-90.

Castañeda, Jorge G, and Marco A. Morales, Eds, *Leftovers: Tales of the Latin American Left*. New York: Routledge. (p.3-11)

Corrales, Javier. 2008. "The Backlash against Market Reforms." In Jorge I. Domínguez and Michael Shifter, eds., *Constructing Democratic Governance in Latin America*. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press. [Excerpts TBA].

Nov 09 (Mon) Step 2: The 2000s and the Rise of China

Domínguez, Jorge I. 2010. "The Changes in the International System During the 2000's." In Jorge I. Domínguez and Rafael Fernández de Castro, Eds. *Contemporary U.S.-Latin American Relations*. New York: Routledge. pp.1-16.

Multiple Authors. 2012. "Special Issue: China & Latin America." *Americas Quarterly*, 6(1): Excerpts.

Nov 11 (Wed) Alternative 1: Venezuela's Way

Corrales, Javier, and Michael Penfold. 2011. "Venezuela's New Foreign Policy: Soft Balancing and Social-Power Diplomacy." Corrales, Javier, and Michael Penfold. 2011. *Dragon in the Tropics: Hugo Chávez and the Political Economy of Revolution in Venezuela*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. pp. 98-136.

Corrales, Javier. 2006. "Cuba's New Daddy: Venezuelan-Cuban Relations Since 2000." *Hemisphere*, 17 (Fall): 24-29.

Nov 16 (Mon) Alternative 2: Brazil's Way

Vigevani, Tullo, and Cepaluni, Gabriel. 2007. "Lula's Foreign Policy and the Quest for Autonomy through Diversification." *Third World Quarterly*, 28(7): 1309-1326.

The Economist. "[Lula's Message for Two Worlds](#)," January 30, 2003.

The Economist. "[Brazil in Africa: A New Atlantic Alliance](#)." November 10, 2012.

Nov 18 (Wed) **Exam 2** (in-class)

Nov 23 (Mon) The War on Drugs

Bagley, Bruce M. and Juan G. Tokatlian. 1999. "Dope and Dogma. Explaining the failure of U.S.-Latin American Drug Policies." In LaRosa, Michael and Frank O. Mora. 1999. *Neighborhoodly Adversaries*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Isacson, Adam. 2006. "Plan Colombia: Six Years Later." CIP International Policy Report.

Nov 25 (Wed) The War on Drugs (continued)

Smith. 2013. Ch. 14 "Drug Trafficking, Drug Wars."

*Additional reading TBA.

-- Happy Thanksgiving! --

Nov 30 (Mon) Non-State Actors & Human Rights

Keck, Margaret, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Ch. 3, 79-120.

Hammond, John L. 2006. "Whither the World Social Forum?" *New Labor Forum*, 15(3): 40-51

Dec 02 (Wed) Immigration

Williams. 2012. pp.292-300.

New York Times. 2006. "[Flow of Immigrants money to Latin America Surges](#)"

Economist. 2012. "[Remittance Corridors: New Rivers of Gold](#)".

Cave, Damien. 2012. "[Migrants' New Paths Reshaping Latin America](#)"

Cave, Damien. 2012. "[Better Lives for Mexicans Cut Allure of Going North](#)"

Nazario, Sonia. 2014. "[The Children of the Drug Wars: A Refugee Crisis, Not an Immigration Crisis](#)." *The New York Times*, July 11.

Dec 07 (Mon) Latin Multinational Corporations? OR Opening Up to Cuba? (Class Vote)

Readings TBA.

Dec 09 (Mon) Concluding Thoughts

****Quiz #4****

Sabatini, Christopher and Ryan Berger. 2012. "[Why Washington Can't Afford to Ignore Latin America](#)."

McIlhenny, William. 2012. "[How the U.S. is Engaging a Strategic and Evolving Region](#)."

****Paper 2 Due on Dec 16 at 10 PM (Blackboard Upload)****