Fall 2009

**DIPL 6806 Political Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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Whitehead School – Fall 2009
DIPL 6806: Political Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean
Tuesdays 4:00 – 6:10, Mooney Hall 29

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Office Hours: Mondays 2-5, and by appointment
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Course Summary:
This seminar provides an overview of major approaches to the study of political economy in Latin America, past and present development trends, and recent debates over economic policy. The course begins with classic questions of the mutual reciprocal relations between politics and economics before covering the major debates between structural and institutional approaches. It proceeds by examining the switch from import-substituting industrialization to export-led growth models in the 1980s and 1990s as well as the effects of and reactions to the rise of neoliberal economic policies. The last several weeks examine new reform efforts in industry, agriculture, finance, and administration as well as the current economic crisis. Course readings balance theory and empirics, range across methodologies and academic disciplines, and provide contrasting normative perspectives.

Requirements and Grading:
1. Class Participation (20 percent of course grade): Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to read all of the assigned materials prior to class, and to take part actively in class discussions. The quality of the discussion will largely depend on your preparation.
2. Literature Reviews (15 percent): Students should turn in a one-page review of the readings each week, except the week the mid-term is due. In summary fashion, these literature reviews should compare and contrast the readings. Types of issues to address include the major arguments presented, the evidence used, the type of analysis employed, and limitations or flaws. The literature reviews may also be used to raise questions for class discussion. Although the reviews will not be individually graded, students should keep in mind that their reviews should serve them well for the class discussions and exams.
3. Mid-term Exam Essay (25 percent): Take-home exam for which questions will be provided in advance for an essay of 7-8 pages. The mid-term is due October 13.
4. Final Exam Essay or Research Paper (40 percent): Take-home exam for which questions will be provided in advance for an essay of 13-15 pages or research paper on the topic of your choice, 15-20 pages. If you choose the research paper, a proposal and bibliography are due February 19. The final, or research paper, is due December 17.

Required Readings:
All required course readings are on Blackboard except the book, The Globalizers: Development Workers in Action, by Jeffery Jackson, which is available at the bookstore.
Week 1 – Tue, Sep 1: **Introductory Meeting**
*No reading.*

Week 2 – Tue, Sep 8: **The Political Economic Nexus**

Week 3 – Tue, Sep 15: **Structuralism, Dependency, and World-Systems Analysis**

Week 4 – Tue, Sep 22: **Rent-Seeking and New Institutional Economics**
Week 5 – Tue, Sep 29: Competing Perspectives on Economic Policy Change


Week 6 – Tue, Oct 6: Reforming States and Markets in the 1990s


Week 7 – Tue, Oct 13: Labor’s Role in and Reaction to Reforms (Mid-term is due)

Week 8 – Tue, Oct 20: **Evaluating Neoliberalism**

- Kurt Weyland, “Assessing Latin American Neoliberalism: Introduction to a Debate.”
- Evelyne Huber and Fred Solt, “Successes and Failures of Neoliberalism.”
- Michael Walton, “Neoliberalism in Latin America: Good, Bad, or Incomplete?”
  

Week 9 – Tue, Oct 27: **Evaluating Globalization**


Week 10 – Tue, Nov 3: **New Developmentalism and Industrial Policy**


Week 11 – Tue, Nov 10: **Agrarian Reform and Non-Traditional Exports**

Week 12 – Tue, Nov 17:  Global Commodity Chains, Sweatshops, and Trade

Week 13 – Tue, Nov 24:  Foreign Funds: Aid, FDI, and Remittances

Week 14 – Tue, Dec 1:  TINA vs. AWIP
Week 15 – Tue, Dec 8: **The Economic Crisis of 2008/2009 and Future Paths**


**Thursday, Dec 17: Final Exam Due (by 4:00 p.m.)**