

Seton Hall University

**eRepository @ Seton Hall**

---

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

---

Fall 2007

## **DIPL 6802 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Benjamin Goldfrank PhD  
*Seton Hall University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Goldfrank, Benjamin PhD, "DIPL 6802 Peoples and Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean" (2007).  
*Diplomacy Syllabi*. 516.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/516>

**Whitehead School – Fall 2007**  
**DIPL 6802: Peoples and Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Thursdays 8:35-10:45**  
**Corrigan Hall 66**

Professor: Benjamin Goldfrank  
Office Hours: Mondays 2:30 – 4:00 and Thursdays 6 – 7:30  
Office: McQuaid Hall 101D  
Phone: 973-275-2095  
Email: goldfrbe@shu.edu

Course Summary:

This seminar provides an overview of major approaches to the study of Latin American politics and society. It emphasizes both a historical perspective and an analysis of current trends and issues. Using various analytical lenses, including cultural, structural, institutional, and rational-choice perspectives, the course focuses on the different kinds of political regimes and the patterns of political change that have characterized Latin American countries in the past century. We will take up several specific questions: Why have some countries in Latin America enjoyed more stable political systems than others? Why have some countries faced severe threats from guerrilla movements and even major social revolutions, while others succumbed to military coups, especially in the 1960s and 1970s? Why did Latin America experience a wave of democratization in the 1980s and what are the prospects for the consolidation of democracy in the region in the twenty-first century? In answering these questions, the course will provide a survey of the region's political development, with particular emphasis on four countries: Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela.

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 summary and 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.
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.

Required Readings:

All required course readings are on Blackboard.

## **Introduction: Major Approaches to the Study of Latin American Politics**

### Week 1 – Thurs, Sep 6:

Start reading next week's readings. Class showing of: "The Battle of Chile, Part 1: The Insurrection of the Bourgeoisie" or "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised." (Professor is attending the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada.)

### Week 2 – Thurs, Sep 13: Modernization, Culture, Dependency, & Institutions

- Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy," *American Political Science Review* (March 1959: 69-103).
- Howard Wiarda, "Whatever Happened to Corporatism and Authoritarianism in Latin America?" in Wiarda, ed., *Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America – Revisted* (2004: 1-26).
- Susanne Jonas, "Dependency and Imperialism: The Roots of Latin American Underdevelopment," in Katznelson, et al., eds., *The Politics & Society Reader* (1974: 171-201).
- Scott Mainwaring, "Presidentialism, Multipartism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination," *Comparative Political Studies* (1993: 198-228)..
- Guillermo O'Donnell, "'And Why Should I Give a Shit?' Notes on Sociability and Politics in Argentina and Brazil," *Counterpoints* (1999: 81-105).

### Week 3 – Thurs, Sep 20: Structure, Agency, & Critical Junctures

- Skidmore and Smith, "The Transformation of Modern Latin America, 1880s-2000s," *Modern Latin America* (2005: 42-67).
- Guillermo O'Donnell, "Toward an Alternative Conceptualization of South American Politics," in *Promise of Development* (1973/1986: 239-275).
- David Collier, "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model," in Collier, ed. *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (1979: 19-32)
- Youssef Cohen, *Radicals, Reformers, and Reactionaries: The Prisoner's Dilemma and the Collapse of Democracy in Latin America*, chapters 4-5 (1994: 38-75).
- Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, "Overview," *Shaping the Political Arena* (2002: 3-20).

## **Development and Breakdown of Democracy**

### Week 4 – Thurs, Sep 27: Chile

- Arturo Valenzuela, "Party Politics and the Crisis of Presidentialism in Chile: A Proposal for a Parliamentary Form of Government," in Juan Linz & Arturo Valenzuela, eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy* (1994: 165-224).
- Julio Faundez, "In Defense of Presidentialism: The Case of Chile," in Scott Mainwaring and Matthew Shugart, eds., *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America* (1997: 300-20, see esp. 317-319).
- Kenneth Erickson and Patrick Peppe, "Dependent Capitalist Development, U.S. Foreign Policy, and Repression of the Working Class in Chile and Brazil," *Latin American Perspectives* (Winter 1976: 19-41).
- Henry Kissinger, "National Security Decision Memorandum 93 (1970)," in Peter Kornbluh, *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability* (2004: 129-31).
- "Fleeing the Chilean Coup: The Debate Over U.S. Complicity," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2004: 160-5).

#### Week 5 – Thurs, Oct 4: Brazil

- Skidmore and Smith, "Brazil: Development for Whom?" [The End of Empire to Military Rule] in *Modern Latin America* (2005:144-71)
- Michael Conniff, "Introduction" and "Brazil's Populist Republic and Beyond" in Conniff, ed., *Populism in Latin America* (1999: 4-14; 43-62).
- Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil," in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America* (1978: 110-137).
- Scott Mainwaring, "A Legacy of Party Underdevelopment, 1822-1979," *Rethinking Party Systems in the Third Wave of Democratization: The Case of Brazil* (1999: 63-87).
- Bolivar Lamounier, "Brazil: Toward Parliamentarism?" in Juan Linz and Arturo Valenzuela, eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy* (1994: 253-71).

#### **Regime Stability in One- and Two-Party Systems**

##### Week 6 – Thurs, Oct 11: Mexico and Venezuela **Mid-Term Exam Questions Passed Out**

- Daniel Levy, Kathleen Bruhn, and Emilio Zebadúa, "Legacies of Undemocratic Development," *Mexico: The Struggle for Democratic Development* (2001: 35-65).
- Judith Adler Hellman, "A Ruling Party is Formed," *Mexico in Crisis* (1983: 33-57).
- Levy, et al, "The State and the Market," *Mexico* (149-165).
- Steve Ellner, "The Heyday of Radical Populism in Venezuela and Its Aftermath," in Conniff, ed., *Populism in Latin America* (1999: 117-37).
- Daniel Levine, "Venezuela Since 1958: The Consolidation of Democratic Politics," in Linz & Stepan, eds., *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America* (1978: 82-109).
- Michael Coppedge, "Venezuela: Democratic Despite Presidentialism" in Linz and Valenzuela, eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy* (1994: 396-421).

#### **Causes and Consequences of Revolutionary Movements**

##### Week 7 – Thurs, Oct 18: Theories of Revolution and the Case of Cuba **Mid-Term Exam Due**

- Che Guevara, "The Essence of Guerrilla Struggle," *Che Guevara Reader* (1960/2003: 64-9).
- Peter Winn, "Making Revolution," *Americas* (1999: 499-549).
- Timothy Wickham-Crowley, "Winners, Losers, and Also-Rans: Toward a Comparative Sociology of Latin American Guerrilla Movements," in Susan Eckstein, ed., *Power and Popular Protest* (2001: 132-81).

##### Week 8 – Thurs, Oct 25: Nicaragua and Persistent Insurgencies in Colombia and Mexico

- James Mahoney, "Path-Dependent Explanations of Regime Change: Central America in Comparative Perspective," *Studies in Comparative International Development* (Spring 2001: 111-141).
- Manus Midlarsky & Kenneth Roberts, "Class, State, and Revolution in Central America: Nicaragua & El Salvador Compared," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (June 1985: 163-193).
- Jeff Goodwin, "Between Success and Failure: Persistent Insurgencies," in *No Other Way Out* (2001: 217-49).
- Karen Kampwirth, "Introduction," & "Also a Women's Rebellion: The Rise of the Zapatista Army," *Women and Guerrilla Movements: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Chiapas, Cuba* (2002: 1-17, 83-115).
- Jennifer Holmes, Sheila Gutiérrez, & Kevin Curtin, "Drugs, Violence, and Development in Colombia: A Department-Level Analysis," *Latin American Politics & Society* (Fall 2006: 157-184).

## **Transitions to Democracy and Issues of Consolidation and Quality**

### Week 9 – Thurs, Nov 1: Transitions and Quality

- Ruth Collier, *Paths Toward Democracy* (1999: 1-23; 110-161).
- Jonathan Markoff, "Really Existing Democracies: Learning from Latin America in the Late 1990s," *New Left Review* (May-June 1997: 48-68).
- Guillermo O'Donnell, "Delegative Democracy," *Counterpoints* (1999: 159-173).
- Kenneth Roberts, "Social Inequalities Without Class Cleavages in Latin America's Neoliberal Era," *Studies in Comparative International Development* (Winter 2002: 3-33).
- Hochstetler, Kathryn. "Rethinking Presidentialism: Challenges and Presidential Falls in South America," *Comparative Politics* (July 2006: 401-418).

### Week 10 – Thurs, Nov 8: Chile

- Allen Angell, "The Transition to Democracy in Chile: A Model or an Exceptional Case?" *Parliamentary Affairs* (Oct 1993: 563-78).
- James Cypher, "Pinochet meets Polanyi? The curious case of the Chilean embrace of "free" market economics" *Journal of Economic Issues* (June 2004: 527-35).
- Paul Posner, "Popular Representation and Political Satisfaction in Chile's New Democracy," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* (Spring 1999: 59-85).
- Arturo Valenzuela and Lucía Dammert, "Problems of Success in Chile," *Journal of Democracy* (October 2006: 65-79).
- Marcela Tobar, "Chilean Feminism and Social Democracy: From the Democratic Transition to Bachelet," *NACLA: Report on the Americas* (Mar/Apr 2007: 25-29).

### Week 11 – Thurs, Nov 15: Brazil

- Timothy Power, "Political Institutions in Democratic Brazil: Politics as Permanent Constitutional Convention," in Kingstone and Power, eds., *Democratic Brazil: Actors, Institutions, and Processes* (2000: 17-35).
- Leslie Armijo and Philippe Faucher, "Compared to What? Assessing Brazil's Political Institutions," *Comparative Political Studies* (August 2006: 759-786).
- Benjamin Goldfrank and Brian Wampler, "From Good Government to Politics as Usual: How the Workers' Party (PT) Lost its Way." Working Paper (July 2007).
- Sales Augusto Dos Santos, "Who is Black in Brazil? A Timely or a False Question in Brazilian Race Relations in the Era of Affirmative Action," *Latin American Perspectives* (July 2006: 30-48).
- Ronald Ahnen, "The Politics of Police Violence in Brazil," *Latin American Politics & Society* (Spring 2007: 141-164).

### Week 12 – Thurs, Nov 22: Thanksgiving Break: No Class

### Week 13 – Thurs, Nov 29: Mexico

- David Shirk, "The Democratization of Mexican Politics;" "The 2000 Presidential Election & a New Era of Mexican Politics," *Mexico's New Politics: The PAN and Democratic Change* (2005: 15-48; 133-73).
- Al Giordano, "Mexico's Presidential Swindle," *New Left Review*, 41 (Sep-Oct 2006: 5-27).
- Manuel Pastor & Carol Wise, "The Lost Sexenio: Vicente Fox & New Politics of Economic Reform in Mexico," *Latin American Politics & Society* (Winter 2005: 135-160).
- Claudio Holzner, "The Poverty of Democracy: Neoliberal Reforms and Political Participation of the Poor in Mexico," *Latin American Politics & Society* (Summer 2007: 87-122).

#### Week 14 – Thurs, Dec 6: Venezuela

- Steve Ellner, "Introduction: The Search for Explanations," in Ellner and Hellinger, eds., *Venezuelan Politics in the Chávez Era* (2003: 7-26).
- Kenneth Roberts, "Social Correlates of Party System Demise and Populist Resurgence in Venezuela," *Latin American Politics & Society* (Fall 2003: 35-57).
- Julia Buxton, "Venezuela's Contemporary Political Conflict in Historical Context," *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 24:3 (May 2005: 328-47).
- Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold, "Venezuela: Crowding out the Opposition," *Journal of Democracy* (April 2007: 99-113).
- Salas, "Ethnicity and Revolution: Political Economy of Racism in Venezuela," *Latin American Perspectives* (March 2005: 72-91).
- Dick Parker, "Chávez and the Search for an Alternative to Neoliberalism," *Latin American Perspectives* (March 2005: 39-50).

#### **Thursday, December 13: Final Exam or Research Paper Due (by 8:45 p.m.)**

Extra:

#### Journals

*Latin American Research Review*  
*Latin American Politics and Society*  
*Journal of Latin American Studies*  
*Latin American Perspectives*  
*NACLA: Report on the Americas*  
*Bulletin of Latin American Research*  
*Comparative Politics*  
*Comparative Political Studies*  
*World Politics*  
*Politics and Society*  
*Studies in Comparative International Development*  
*American Political Science Review*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*Political Research Quarterly*  
*Journal of Democracy*

#### Websites

<a href="http://lanic.utexas.edu/">http://lanic.utexas.edu/</a>	(General site with millions of links)
<a href="http://www.latinobarometro.org/">http://www.latinobarometro.org/</a>	(Survey research)
<a href="http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/">http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/</a>	(Elections, constitutions, bibliographies)
<a href="http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas">http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas</a>	(BBC news on the Americas)