

Seton Hall University

**eRepository @ Seton Hall**

---

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
Relations

---

Spring 2019

## **Politics and Society in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Benjamin Goldfrank Ph.D.

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

---

**DIPL 6803: Politics and Society in Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Spring 2019**  
**Mondays, 5 – 7:30 p.m., Stafford Hall 09**

Professor: Benjamin Goldfrank  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m., and by appointment  
Office: McQuaid Hall 112  
Phone: 973-275-2095  
Email: benjamin.goldfrank@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, 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? What explains the strengthening and then weakening of democracy in the region over time? In answering these questions, the course provides a survey of the region's political and social development with particular emphasis on four countries – Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela – and on the specific issues and countries that students choose.

Requirements and Grading:

1. Class Participation (20 percent of course grade): Students are expected to attend all class sessions, read all assigned materials prior to class, attend at least one office hours meeting, take part actively in class discussions, and co-lead one class discussion. The quality of the discussion will largely depend on student preparation.
2. Map Quiz (5 percent).
3. Literature Reviews (15 percent): Students should turn in a one-page summary and review of the readings each week, except Week 7 (mid-term is due), week of presentation, and one optional week. These literature reviews should compare and contrast the readings concisely. 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.
4. Mid-term Exam Essay (20 percent): Take-home exam for which questions will be provided in advance for an essay of 8-9 pages.
5. Presentation (10 percent): Present final paper argument in class (and co-lead discussion of reading) during weeks 12-14.
6. Final Paper (30 percent): Research or policy paper on a topic of your choice (please consult with me), 12-15 pages.

Evaluation of assignments will be based on students' ability to convey their understanding and critical analysis of the course material. Late papers will be marked down. Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies.

### Important Notes:

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

Use of electronic devices for any purpose other than taking notes is not appropriate during class time. It distracts other students and the professor and will result in a lowered grade.

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at [DSS@shu.edu](mailto:DSS@shu.edu).

Papers should utilize the Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date citation format. The guidelines for this format is on the course Blackboard page.

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor before the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

### Required Readings:

All course readings are on Blackboard; required denoted with ●; recommended denoted with \*

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

#### Week 1 – Mon., Jan. 14: Introduction

\*\*\*No readings this week – Start Week 2's readings. If you are completely new to Latin American politics, the following article is recommended MLK Jr. Weekend reading: Sergio Amaral, "U.S.-Latin America Relations Over the Last Decade," in *Inter-American Dialogue, A Decade of Change Political, Economic, and Social Developments in Western Hemisphere Affairs* (2011, 89-111).

**\*\* No Class on Monday, January 21– Martin Luther King Jr. Day \*\***

### Week 2 – Mon., Jan. 28: Modernization, Culture, & Dependency

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, “The Transformation of Modern Latin America, 1880s-2000s,” *Modern Latin America* (2005: 42-67).
- Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel, “Changing Mass Priorities: The Link between Modernization and Democracy,” *Perspectives on Politics* (June 2010: 551-567).
- Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, “Beyond Modernization Theory,” *Annals of Comparative Democratization* (Sept 2018: 25-31).
- Howard Wiarda, “Whatever Happened to Corporatism and Authoritarianism in Latin America?” in Wiarda, ed., *Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America – Revisited* (2004: 1-26).
- Henry Veltmeyer and Raúl Delgado Wise, “Rethinking Development from a Latin American Perspective,” *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* 39:3 (2018: 335-352).
- Susanne Jonas, “Dependency and Imperialism: The Roots of Latin American Underdevelopment,” in Katznelson, et al., eds., *The Politics & Society Reader* (1974: 171-201).
- \* Yascha Mounk and Roberto Foa, “The End of the Democratic Century: Autocracy's Global Ascendance,” *Foreign Affairs* (May 2018: 29-36).

### Week 3 – Mon., Feb. 4: Structure, Agency, Institutions, & Critical Junctures

- David Collier, “Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model,” in Collier, ed. *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (1979: 19-32)
- Scott Mainwaring and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, “Democratic Breakdown and Survival,” *Journal of Democracy* (April 2013: 123-137).
- Scott Mainwaring, “Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination,” *Comparative Political Studies* (1993: 198-228).
- Ruth Berins Collier and David Collier, “Overview,” *Shaping the Political Arena* (2002: 3-20).
- \* Guillermo O’Donnell, “Toward an Alternative Conceptualization of South American Politics,” in *Promise of Development* (1973/1986: 239-275).

### **Stability and Instability of Political Regimes**

#### Week 4 – Mon., Feb. 11: Brazil and Chile

- Michael Conniff, “Introduction” and “Brazil’s Populist Republic and Beyond” in Conniff, ed., *Populism in Latin America* (1999: 4-14; 43-62).
- 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).
- 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: 165-182; 211-217).
- Jack Devine, “What Really Happened in Chile,” *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug 2014: 26-35).
- Peter Kornbluh, “Showdown in Santiago,” *Foreign Affairs* (Sep/Oct 2014: 168-174).
- \* Henry Kissinger, “National Security Decision Memorandum 93 (1970),” in Peter Kornbluh, *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability* (2004: 129-131).
- \* Peter Kornbluh, “Kissinger Blocked Demarche on International Assassinations to Condor States,” National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 312 (April 10, 2010).
- \* 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).

- \* Alfred Stepan, "Political Leadership and Regime Breakdown: Brazil," in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America* (1978: 110-137).

Week 5 – Mon., Feb. 18: Mexico and Venezuela

- David Shirk, "The Democratization of Mexican Politics" in Shirk, *Mexico's New Politics: The PAN and Democratic Change* (2005: 15-48).
- Judith Teichman, "Violent Conflict and Uneven Development: The Case of Mexico," in Ascher and Mirovitskaya, eds., *Economic Development Strategies and the Evolution of Violence in Latin America* (2012: 41-69).
- Steve Ellner, "The Heyday of Radical Populism in Venezuela and Its Aftermath," in Coniff, ed., *Populism in Latin America* (1999: 117-37).
- Michael Coppedge, "Venezuela: Democratic Despite Presidentialism" in Linz and Valenzuela, eds., *The Failure of Presidential Democracy* (1994: 396-421).
- \* Judith Adler Hellman, "A Ruling Party is Formed," *Mexico in Crisis* (1983: 33-57).
- \* Daniel Levy, Kathleen Bruhn, and Emilio Zebadúa, "The State and the Market," *Mexico: The Struggle for Democratic Development* (149-165).

Week 6 – Mon., Feb. 25: Guerilla Movements & Revolutions *Mid-Term Questions Passed Out*

- James Mahoney, "Path-Dependent Explanations of Regime Change: Central America in Comparative Perspective," *Studies in Comparative International Development* (Spring 2001: 111-141).
- 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).
- Jeff Goodwin, "Between Success and Failure: Persistent Insurgencies," in *No Other Way Out* (2001: 217-49).
- \* Che Guevara, "The Essence of Guerrilla Struggle," *Che Guevara Reader* (1960/2003: 64-69).
- \* Peter Winn, "Making Revolution," *Americas* (1999: 499-549).

**Transitions to Democracy and New Issues**

Week 7 – Mon., March 4: Democratization Challenges *Mid-Term Exam Essay Due*

- Karen Remmer, "The Process of Democratization in Latin America," *Studies in Comparative International Development* (Winter 1992/1993: 3-24).
- Kenneth Roberts, "The Politics of Inequality and Redistribution in Latin America's Post-Adjustment Era," UNU-WIDER Working Paper No. 2012/08 (Jan 2012: 23 pgs.).
- Steven Levitsky, "Democratic Survival and Weakness," *Journal of Democracy* (Oct 2018: 102-113).
- Carlos de la Torre, "Populism Revived: Donald Trump and the Latin American Leftist Populists," *The Americas* (Oct 2018: 733-753).
- \* Benjamin Goldfrank, "The Latin American Left's Missed Opportunity to Deepen Democracy," *Journal of International Affairs* (2017: 147-160).
- \* Thomas D'Agostino, "Caribbean Politics," in Hillman & D'Agostino, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Caribbean* (2009: 87-130).

**\*\* No Class on Monday, March 11 – Spring Break \*\***

## Contemporary National Politics

### Week 8 – Mon., March 18: Chile

- Rossana Castiglioni and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, “Challenges to Political Representation in Contemporary Chile,” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (October 2016: 3–24).
- Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, “The Political Economy of Inequality at the Top in Contemporary Chile,” in Bértola & Williamson, eds., *Has Latin American Inequality Changed Direction?* (2017: 339-363).
- Kenneth Roberts, “(Re)Politicizing Inequalities: Movements, Parties, and Social Citizenship in Chile,” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (October 2016: 125-154).
- Florencia Antía, “The Political Dynamic of Redistribution in Unequal Democracies: The Center-Left Governments of Chile and Uruguay in Comparative Perspective,” *Latin American Perspectives* (Jan 2019: 152-166).
- \* Peter Siavelis, “Crisis of Representation in Chile? The Institutional Connection,” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* (October 2016: 61–93).

### Week 9 – Mon., March 25: Brazil

- Peter Kingstone and Timothy Power, “A Fourth Decade of Brazilian Democracy: Achievements, Challenges, and Polarization,” in Kingstone & Power, eds., *Democratic Brazil Divided*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh (2017, pp. 3-27).
- Benjamin Goldfrank and Brian Wampler, “Good Government and Politics as Usual: The Schizophrenic Path of the Workers’ Party,” in Kingstone & Power, eds., *Democratic Brazil Divided*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh (2017, pp. 53-73).
- Jan Hoffman French, “Rethinking Police Violence in Brazil: Unmasking the Public Secret of Race,” *Latin American Politics & Society* (Winter 2013: 161-181).
- Omar G. Encarnación, “The Patriarchy’s Revenge: How Retro-Macho Politics Doomed Dilma Rousseff,” *World Policy Journal*, (Spring 2017: 82-91).
- Benjamin Cowan, “Holy Ghosts of Brazil’s Past,” *NACLA Report on the Americas* (Winter 2016: 346-352).
- \* Juliana Neuenschwander and Marcus Giraldes, “Marielle Franco: 1979-2018,” and Marielle Franco, “After the Takeover,” *New Left Review* (Mar-Apr 2018: 131-140).
- \* Frederic Loualt, “Portrait of Jair Bolsonaro,” *Institute Montaigne* (Dec 21, 2018: online).

### Week 10 – Mon., April 1: Venezuela

- Steve Ellner, “Introduction: The Search for Explanations,” in Ellner and Hellinger, eds., *Venezuelan Politics in the Chávez Era* (2003: 7-26).
- Gabriel Hetland, “The Promise and Perils of Radical Left Populism: The Case of Venezuela,” *Journal of World-Systems Research* (Summer/Fall 2018: 277-292).
- Margarita López Maya, “Populism, 21st-Century Socialism and Corruption in Venezuela,” *Thesis Eleven* (Dec 2018: 67-83).
- Julia Buxton, “Defusing Venezuela,” *Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations* (Spring 2018: 7-24).
- \* Edgardo Lander, “The Implosion of Venezuela’s Rentier State,” *New Politics Papers*: 1, Transnational Institute (September 2016).
- \* Moisés Naím and Francisco Toro, “Venezuela’s Suicide: Lessons from a Failed State,” *Foreign Affairs* (Oct 15, 2018: online).

Week 11 – Mon., April 8: Mexico

- Alberto Olvera, “The Elusive Democracy: Political Parties, Democratic Institutions, and Civil Society in Mexico,” *Latin American Research Review*, Special Issue (2010: 79-107).
- Kenneth Greene and Mariano Sánchez-Talanquer, “Mexico’s Party System Under Stress,” *Journal of Democracy* (Oct 2018: 31-42).
- Denise Dresser, “Can Mexico Be Saved? The Peril and Promise of López Obrador,” *Foreign Affairs* (Sep-Oct 2018: 157-168).
- Beatriz Magaloni and Zaira Razu, “Mexico in the Grip of Violence,” *Current History* (Feb 2016: 62).
- Gustavo Flores-Macías, “The Consequences of Militarizing Anti-Drug Efforts for State Capacity in Latin America: Evidence from Mexico,” *Comparative Politics* (Oct 2018: 1-20).
- \* Gerardo Esquivel Hernandez, “Extreme Inequality in Mexico: Concentration of Economic and Political Power,” OXFAM, Mexico City (June 2015).
- \* Yanina Welp, “The Mexican Movement #yosoy132,” in EU-LAC Foundation, ed., *Social Protest and Democratic Responsiveness: Assessing Realities in Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union* (2015: 163-179).

*Weeks 12-14 topics and readings based on consultation with students:*

Week 12 – Mon., April 15: Student Presentations and Discussion

*Central America*

Bryan Anderson – Security policies in Central America

Axel Esquivel – Renewable energy in CR & ES

Ava Ikbal – Unaccompanied migrants from El Salvador

*Random*

Jack Laforge – Economic Development in General

Laura Dominguez – education in Paraguay

Liam Scollins – FARC

David Gutierrez – Social Democracy/Socialism/Inequality in Sweden, Uruguay, & Mexico

**\*\* No Class on Monday, April 22 – Easter Monday \*\***

Week 13 – Mon., April 29: Student Presentations and Discussion

*Gender & Politics*

Valery Vertiz – Women & politics, gender quotas

Marie Leone – women’s rights in Argentina

Parker LaCourse – LGBT rights

Alexandra Recupero – Feminist Liberation Theology in LA

*Caribbean*

Kelsey Harris – Language education in Eastern Caribbean

Joe Marcos – Contemporary Cuban politics

Gabriela Fernandez – Puerto Rican economic relations to the US compared to other Carib.

*Venezuela*

Maria Mahecha – how Venezuela’s neighbors are responding to refugee crisis

Zofia Gallegos – Venezuela’s economic potential and current crisis

Patrick DaSilva – Venezuela

Week 14 – Mon., May 6: Student Presentations and Discussion

*Mexico*

Shantel Santana – Mexico Drug War

Mark Gorman -- Mexican drug cartels and the government

Daisy Martinez – corruption & crime in Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras

Maria Gonzalez – AMLO & economic model

*Ethnic politics*

Alondra Camargo – Impact of globalization on indigenous populations in Mexico, Bol, Guate

Alex Dyer – Ethnic Japanese in Brazil

Belal Bahader – Palestinians/Arabs/Muslims in LA

Victor Vieira – race and politics in Brazil

**Monday, May 13: Final Paper Due by 5 p.m.**

Please provide a hard copy and an electronic version via email.

**Further Resources:**

*Journals: Latin American Research Review, Latin American Politics and Society, Journal of Latin American Studies, Journal of Latin American Politics, Latin American Perspectives, NACLA: Report on the Americas, Bulletin of Latin American Research, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, World Politics, Politics and Society, Journal of Democracy*

Websites:

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>

(General site with hundreds of links)

<http://www.latinobarometro.org/>

(Survey research)

<http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/>

(Elections, constitutions, bibliographies)

<http://library.shu.edu/latam>

(Seton Hall Library Resource Guide)

<http://latinamericadailybriefing.blogspot.com>

(Daily News Round-Up in Latin America)

Primary Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students should have acquired knowledge and understanding of: key concepts, models, theories, and debates involved in the study of contemporary international relations and diplomacy; the interaction between politics and economics in the international system; a particular region of the world (Latin America and the Caribbean); and prevailing global issues. Students should have developed the skills to: analyze complex situations and synthesize information; and communicate effectively in oral and written forms. Students should be able to deploy a global perspective to: recognize and understand differences among a diversity of cultures and viewpoints; and interact effectively with people of other cultures, backgrounds, and viewpoints.