CPO4303 - Comparative Latin American Politics

Dr. Waltraud Q. Morales

Syllabus Fall 2013

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	CPO4303 - Comparative Latin American Politics
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Fall 2013
Location	T: 6:00-8:50, PSY-105

Course Description

The course focuses on the comparative analysis of politics, society and culture in Latin America and selected countries of the region.

Course Objectives

- Provide overview of historical and recent political, social and economic problems of the region
- Understand political and economic development challenges

- Focus on selected countries
- Compare shared dilemmas and problems
- Analyze Latin American political and indigenous culture through literature
- Explore special themes of social change, democratization and human rights

Required Texts

- Harry E. Vanden, and Gary Prevost, ***Politics of Latin America: The Power Game,*** 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. (ISBN-13: 978-0-19-979714-1) (Need most recent edition.)
- Miguel Angel Asturias, ***The President***. Waveland Press: Long Grove, Illinois, 1963. (Any edition ok.)
- Benjamin Kohl and Linda C. Farthing, ***From the Mines to the Streets: A Bolivian Activist's Life***, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011. (ISBN-13: 978-0-292-74392-2)
- Enrique Krauze, ***Redeemers***, New York: Harper Collins, 2012. (ISBN-13: 978-0-06093-844-4).

Course Requirements

Class lecture and readings are essential to the course, and regular attendance and active participation are critical to do well. Students are responsible for all readings, even if these are only partially covered in class lectures. The course grade is based on five elements.

1. Midterm Exam consisting of essays and objective identifications and short answers.
2. Final Exam non-comprehensive, consisting of essays and objective identifications and short answers over material since the midterm.
3. Analysis Paper I: ***The President***. 8-10 page, double-spaced paper. Further instructions will be available online. See Schedule for due date.
4. Analysis Paper II: ***Redeemers***. 8-10 page, double-spaced paper. Further instructions will be available online. See Schedule for due date.
5. Class Attendance and Participation. Students will be chosen to report on and summarize readings and lead class discussion. Students will also be assigned to monitor a country during the semester and provide updates in class. Online discussion postings may also be assigned to encourage participation.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

Be sure to consult the Schedule carefully for exam dates. Do **NOT** miss exams. If you miss the midterm, there is no make-up, and you lose those points. If you have a documented medical reason, you will be able to take a comprehensive final exam. Meet all deadlines for assignments as noted on the Schedule. Late paper submissions are **penalized five points for each day** of the week late, including weekends. Also, there is no extra credit, so focus your attention on doing well on the required assignments to earn points. Finally, you need to attend class regularly (**no more than 5 absences**). Poor attendance will reduce your overall grade.

The instructor reserves the right to alter and update the syllabus and schedule at any time when necessary for proper functioning of the course, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these changes.

Evaluation and Grading

Generally, grading is based on the scale as noted below. Class assignments are equally weighted, and the specific points are as noted below as well.

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Analysis Paper I	20%
Analysis Paper II	20%
Attendance & Participation	20%
Total	100%

Attendance Policy

Not only do you need to attend class regularly (**no more than 6 absences**), but you need to be prepared, especially if called on and/or assigned to report on the day's readings or update profile of your country. Poor attendance and poor performance on discussions, postings and reports will reduce your overall grade by as much as 20 points.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course)

and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.