CPO4303 Latin American Politics

"Americans will do anything for Latin America except read about it."

-- Scotty Reston, journalist, *The New York Times*

- GRADE BOOK CALCULATOR (BETA V2)
- About Dr. Wilson
- Class rules
- Some helpful tip for writing short essays (by Dr. Dolan)

Course structure

The course contains seven modules and one required final exam. Modules typically have discussions to allow you to explore core concepts further and apply them to specific issues. They might also have short essays that integrate much of what you learned in critical reflection. These essays are 650 words, plus or minus 10%. That is, if your paper is under 585 words, it is too short and will be penalized and if it is longer than 715 words, it is too long and will be similarly penalized.

There is no textbook assigned for this class, instead, I will uploaded readings and some ancillary material (videos etc) to help you better understand the material.

Finally, each module has more than one deadline - typically there is a deadline for the first discussion posting and a separate one for the additional follow-up postings for that discussion with a separate deadline for the short papers, which are typically due at the end of the module.

It is crucial that you are aware of all these deadlines and that you don't miss any them, which will result in points deductions. (You can see all the semester's deadlines by scrolling to the bottom of this page).

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Professor Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 302

Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: by appointment
Homepages	Professor Wilson's homepage at UCFand at CMI, Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use Coursemail for all class related emails

Course Information

Course Name	CPO4303 Latin American Politics
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2016
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face time)

Course Description

This class introduces students to the major countries and themes of Latin American politics, governance, and the relevant political science theories. The emphasis of the class will be on the post-WWII period, which has seen significant changes in Latin America, from rural to urban, from agricultural to industrial, from dictatorship to democracy, from state intervention to Neo-liberalism, from revolution and insurgency to party politics. This class examines some of these changes as well as the changes in political institutions through the use of country case studies to illuminate the consequence of these developments on various groups in society. We will also focus on a number of major issues confronting many of the countries of Latin America in the last decades.

Class Objectives

by the end of the semester you will understand the:

- important social, economic, political and geographic diversity that characterizes Latin America
- inter-relationship between the United States and Latin America and among Latin American states.
- strategies used to pursue economic development and different ideas about what constitutes economic development
- political underpinnings of political and economic development strategies.
- complex nature of the major challenges facing contemporary Latin America
- paradox of the simultaneous existence of expanding economies, democratization, and increased crime

Required Text

- The are NO required books for this class. All readings will be made available to you via the class homepage, free of charge.
- To help with the class you should read a newspaper with a significant Latin American politics focus. I suggest you sign up for the free America's Quarterly weekly summary.
  - While there is no need to buy a textbook, if you feel you would really like to have a good general textbook on Latin America, you might consider the new edition of *Modern Latin America* by Skidemore, Smith, and Green from Oxford University press. There is no obligation to purchase this book and you certainly do not need the book to excel in this course, but if you really want a text book, this is the one.

Course Requirements

Assignments	• You are responsible for keeping a copy of all assignments for this class. • You are also responsible for checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies and/or errors must be reported to the instructor within one week of being posted.
Late, make-up, and extra credit	• Late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized 5 points per day late (or part thereof), including weekend days and

work	holidays. • Late exams are penalized 10 points per day (or part thereof). • Discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - there is no late option for discussion postings. • No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline. • There are no substitute assignments and positively NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask! • I will not discuss any module grade more than a week after it has been posted.

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Module #1: Introduction	2%
Your highest 5 substantive modules grades (Modules #2 through #7)	15% each (75% of your total class grade) Your lowest substantive module grade will be automatically dropped (see caveat in Academic honesty, below).

Final exam	23%
Total	100%

Schedule

Module Dates	**Module Topic**
Jan 11-18	Module #1: Introduction
Jan 14- Feb 1	Module #2: LA Realities
Feb 1- 15	Module #3: Development and Democracy
Feb 15-29	Module #4: Democracy
Feb 29-Mar 21	Module #5: Neoliberalism and the New Left
Mar 21-Apr 4	Module #6: Issues facing LA
Apr 4-18	Module #7:Courts and ESC Rights
Apr 18-28	Final Exam

Attendance Policy

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, as such. Having said that, you need to keep up with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. Note that each module contains several deadlines; that is, not all work for a module is due on the last day listed on the Schedule. You must read each module's instructions for a list of deadlines for the various assignments and deadlines. It is your responsibility to check these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you won't miss any due dates.

NB: The federally-mandated attendance reporting policy requires you to complete an assignment before the end of the first week (before 5 pm on Friday). It does not matter what score you receive for the quiz, but you

must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so may impact your financial aid and/or other support.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on any examination, quiz, or assignment will result an "F" for that assignment and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the up-dated UCF Golden Rule for further information. Any module that contains any material that is identified by the professor as plagiarized will not be eligible to be dropped as your lowest grade. *Please do not plagiarize!* Repeat offenders will fail the course and be reported to the relevant UCF disciplinary board.

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. 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. Furthermore, any attempt to save, store, distribute, or discuss any quiz questions for this class will be interpreted as cheating and will be treated accordingly.

All your work must be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on quizzes, discussion postings, or essays. In short, all your written work and work submitted for grading must be your own, original work.

Sexual Harassment

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex that interferes with educational opportunities is an offense subject to the same penalties as offenses based on other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources, and information concerning reporting options at shield.ucf.edu. Perpetrators are subject to expulsion or termination and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

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.

Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

Professor of Political Science, UCF, Orlando, FL