CPO4303-19Spring 0W59

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

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

- **Avoiding Some Common Writing Errors in Essays**
- **Extra readings**
- **About Dr. Wilson**
- **Class rules**

Welcome to CPO4303 Latin American Politics!

These are truly exciting times to be learning about Latin American Politics!

During 2017 and 2018 **nine new presidents will take office in Latin America**, which could change the political face of the region. There are other issues that dovetail with US economic and security interests that are entering unchartered territory: The **US relations with Mexico** (one of our largest trading partners) is more uncertain with the proposed "wall" and accusations of unfair trade, relations with Central America is similarly under stress due to the immigration crisis.

But there are also many fascinating lessons that can be learned from studying Latin American politics that have nothing to do with the US in any manner and it is these topics that we will cover over the course of the semester. As you will find, the course is designed to maximize the class coverage of topics that you find fundamentally interesting.

Course structure

The course contains seven modules and one optional cumulative final essay 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 through critical reflection. Essays should be 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 required textbook assigned for this class, instead, I will upload readings and some ancillary material (videos, etc) that you are required to read/watch and engage with; they will help you better understand politics in Latin America.

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. If you miss a deadline you will automatically lose points; if you miss the final deadline for any discussion, you will earn no points. (You can see all this semester's deadlines by scrolling to the bottom of this page).

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Bruce M. Wilson
Office	Phillips Hall 305E (via the Political Science Department office PH302)
Office Hours	Dr. Wilson's Office Hours: Tues & Wed 9:30- 11:30 am & by appointment. GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistant): TBA
Homepages	Professor Wilson's homepage at **UCF**; at the **CMI** in Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use the course *Inbox* for all email communication.

Course Description

This class introduces students to the major countries of Latin America, their politics, governance, and the relevant political science theories to understand those topics. The class focuses on the post-WWII period during which Latin America has been transformed from rural to urban, agricultural to industrial, dictatorship to democracy, state-led economic growth to Neo-liberalism, revolution and insurgency to political parties and judicial politics. This class uses country case studies to illuminate the consequence of these developments on various groups and governments across the region. We will also focus on a number of specific major issues/developments confronting the countries of Latin America over 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 between 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 *Democracy in Latin America* by Peter Smith and Cameron Sells, 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 textbook this is the one to read.

Course Requirements

Assignments	• You are responsible for: ○ keeping a copy of all assignments for this class. ○ knowing and meeting all deadlines. • 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 work	Late work (initial discussion postings, powerpoints, exams, and essays) will be penalized 10 percent per day late (or part thereof), including weekend days and holidays. 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. I use traditional rounding up/down of grades, e.g., 89.5 will be rounded up to an "A"; 89.4 remains a "B."

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

Getting Started

To get started, please review the material on this page, as well as the *Announcements*, and the *Course Rules and Policies* (available at the top of this page).

There are some additional readings that I have added to the modules and/or the textbook that you might find interesting/helpful. If you're new to using the Webcourses@UCF, please check out the **Webcourses@UCF Student Tour** and/or the **Success Resources** link located to the left of this page.

Now, select **Modules** in the left sidebar of this page; then open *Module 1: Introduction* and follow the instructions.

Attendance Policy

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, per se. 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). I will use the citizenship quiz for this purpose. It does not matter what score you receive on the citizenship quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support. FYI, if you score less than 70% on this quiz when you are applying for citizenship, you would fail and would not be able to gain US citizenship until your score passes 70%.*

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on any examination or assignment will result in an "F" for that assignment and may be subject to appropriate referral to the **Office of Student Conduct** for further action. See the updated **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!*

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.

All your work must be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on discussion postings, essays, or exams. 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.

Accessibility 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 connect with **Student Accessibility Services (https://sas.sdes.ucf.edu)**, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-PartySoftwareandFERPA

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.