CPO4303-20Summer AW60

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

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

- About Dr. Wilson
- Avoiding Some Common Writing Errors in Essays

Welcome to CPO4303 Latin American Politics, Summer A!

This is a VERY short semester: Read assignment instructions, take note of requirements and deadlines.

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

Over the last two years, more than sixteen Latin American elections took place; nine new presidents took office in 2018 alone, (http://www.as-coa.org/content/guide-2018-latin-american-elections) which changed the political face of the region in many dramatic ways. There are major issues that dovetail with US economic and security interests that are entering uncharted territory: The US relations with Mexico (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2017/01/31/the-u-s-mexico-relationship-is-dangerously-on-the-edge/) (one of our largest trading partners) is more uncertain with the proposed "wall," accusations of unfair trade, and the rise of a new type of politician in the US and in Mexico. Relations with Central America are similarly

under stress due to the immigration crisis. (https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/13/central-america-violence-refugee-crisis-gangs-murder) The ongoing slow-motion collapse of Venezuela, the authoritarian trends in Brazil (right-wing) and Nicaragua (traditional caudillo), the rise of significant and powerful evangelical parties in countries previously immune (Costa Rica) has further complicated the political and economic life of Latin Americans. Compounding all of this is the COVID-19 Pandemic that has affected across the region very differently.

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 six modules and an optional final essay exam that can be used to replace your lowest module grade. Modules generally have discussions, narrated PowerPoint presentations, and/or short essays that integrate much of what you learned through critical reflection.

- Essays are 650 words, plus or minus 10% (i.e., if your paper is under 585 words, it is too short and will be penalized. 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, many of the class modules have 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 deadlines and that you don't miss any them. If you miss a deadline you will automatically lose 20 points per day; if you miss a final discussion deadline you will not be able to contribute further to the discussion and will be graded on what you posted prior to the deadline.

- All this semester's deadlines can be viewed 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: by appointment. GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistant):
Homepages	Professor Wilson's homepage at **UCF** **(http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/people/wilson-bruce/)** ; at the **CMI** **(http://www.cmi.no/staff/?bruce-wilson)** in Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	All class email communication must be done through the Canvas email system.

Course Description

This class introduces students to the major countries of Latin America, their politics, development, governance, and related political science theories to help you 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 (and back, in some cases), state-led economic growth to Neo-liberalism, revolutions, insurgencies, and elections, political parties, and the rise of judicial politics over the last three decades.

The class uses country case studies to illuminate and illustrate the consequence of these developments on various groups and governments across the region. It also focuses on a number of specific major issues/developments confronting the countries of Latin America over the last decades including the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

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 (http://as-coa.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=710ed221b57833213e97b2e79&id=6a33e16b5d)** weekly summary or use the **UT Austin newspaper resource (http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/)**
- If you would really like to read a good textbook on Latin American politics, you might consider the new edition of ***Democracy in Latin America* by Peter Smith (https://global.oup.com/academic/product/democracy-in-latin-america-9780190611347?cc=us&lang=en&)** and Cameron Sells, Oxford University Press.
  - There is no obligation to purchase this or any other book and you certainly do not need the book to excel in this course.

Course Requirements

Assignments	• You are responsible for: ◦ completing all required assignments in this class ▪ before the relevant deadlines. ◦ immediately checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies and/or errors must

	be reported to the instructor within five days of being posted.
Late, make-up, and extra credit work	• Late work (initial discussion postings, PowerPoints, exams, and essays) will be penalized 20 points per day late, including weekend days and holidays. • Discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed • No work will be accepted more than three days after the deadline. • There are no substitute assignments and ◦ NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask! • No module grades will be discussed more than five days after they are 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

Rounding of Grades:

- I use traditional rounding up/down of grades, e.g., 89.5X will be rounded up to an "A"; 89.4X remains a "B."

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Module #1: Introduction	2.5% (required)
The 5 substantive modules (#2 through #6)	19.5% each (97.5% of your total class grade)
Optional final exam	If you take the optional final, it will replace your lowest module grade
Total	100%

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 that you might find interesting/helpful. If you're new to using UCF's online platform, check out **Webcourses@UCF Student Tour (https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/guides/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.

I wish you all a great semester and welcome to the class!

Late work

You can submit late work up to two days late with a penalty of 20 points per day late, except for final postings in required discussions: you cannot post after the final deadline.

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). It does not matter what score you receive on the quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support.*

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 (http://creed.sdes.ucf.edu/)** for further action. See the updated **UCF Golden Rule (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/)** 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 (http://creed.sdes.ucf.edu/)** 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-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.