CPO4303-21Spring 0W60

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

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

Welcome to CPO4303: Latin American Politics!

Dr. Bruce M. Wilson

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

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

Over the last two years, more than sixteen Latin American elections took place with nine new presidents took office in 2018 alone, (Links to an external site.) which changed the political face of the region in many dramatic ways. There are other issues that dovetail with US economic and security interests that are entering uncharted territory: The US relations with Mexico (Links to an external site.) (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. (Links to an external site.)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 believed immune (Costa Rica for example) has further complicated the political and economic life of Latin Americans. Obviously, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the region further into economic, political, and social turmoil with some countries doing impressively well while others have struggled.

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, a midterm exam and an optional 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 (650 words, plus or minus 10%) that integrate much of what you learned through critical reflection.

Partly in the interest of making my classes affordable and accessible to everyone, I have dispensed with expensive textbooks and thus, 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 and theories about politics in Latin America.

Finally, some 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 and separate deadlines for the short papers (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 of 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 GTA: Bailey Sellers
Office	Phillips Hall 305E (I will not be in my office this semester due to the ongoing COVID pandemic)
Office Hours	Monday & Tuesday 9:00- 11:00 am & by appointment.

	Optional Zoom AMA--open meeting, come if you have questions GTAs (Graduate Teaching Assistants) office hours: TBA
Homepages	• at UCF • at the CMI in Bergen, Norway
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use the CANVAS course *Inbox* for all emails.
Free Software (PowerPoint, etc)	https://apps.ucf.edu/

Course Description

This class introduces students to the major countries of Latin America, their politics, governance, and relevant political science theories to understand those topics. The class focuses on the post-WWII period during which Latin America has been largely transformed from rural to urban, agricultural to industrial, dictatorship to democracy (and in some cases back again), state-led economic growth to Neo-liberalism, revolutions, and insurgency to democratic politics and judicial politics.

The class uses country case studies to illuminate the consequences 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.

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

- There 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 America's Quarterly a free weekly summary or check out the free digital resources available from Johns Hopkins University.
- 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.
- Alternatively, there is an open access textbook from 2015, *Understanding Latin American Politics* by Gregory Weeks that is available here

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 20 percent per day late (or part thereof), including weekend days and holidays. • Initial discussion postings can be made late (20 points per day penalty) ○ No postings will be accepted after the discussion is closed. • No work will be accepted more than three days 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

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Module #1: Introduction	2%

The 6 substantive modules (#2 through #7)	13% each Your lowest substantive module grade can be replaced by taking the optional final exam.
Required Midterm Exam	20 % of your class grade
Optional Final exam	If you elect to take the final, it will replace your lowest module grade automatically
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 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.

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

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).*

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic

Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut. *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 , Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright-protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

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.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Jan 15, 2021	Assignment Academic Activity quiz	due by 5pm
Mon Jan 18, 2021	Assignment Intro discussion	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment Intro Narrated PowerPoint	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	Assignment Introduction essay	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 20, 2021	Assignment country choice (post PPT here too)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jan 25, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment LA Reality PowerPoint	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 1, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment Development Disc (all postings here)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 8, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment Final deadline (do not post here)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment Democracy report	due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 22, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment Democracy	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 1, 2021	Calendar Event CPO4303-21Spring 0W60	10am to 10:30am
	Assignment Midterm	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 8, 2021	Assignment Leftist parties	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 15, 2021	Assignment Left party reports	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	Assignment Issue and country choice	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 29, 2021	Assignment Issues PowerPoint	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 21, 2021	Assignment Courts and Rights	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 28, 2021	Assignment Optional Final exam	