UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# CPO 4303 - Comparative Latin American Politics

**Section:** 0001

*College of Sciences*

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

## Course Information

**Term:** Fall 2024
**Class Meeting Days:** TR
**Class Meeting Time:** 13:30 - 14:50
**Class Meeting Location:** PSY 0105
**Modality:** P
**Credit Hours:** 3.00

## Course Description

CPO 4303 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Comparative Latin American Politics: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041or C.I. Comparative analysis of politics, society and culture in Latin America and selected countries of the region. Even Fall.

## Student Learning Outcomes

The main objective of this course is to provide students with the tools necessary to understand contemporary Latin American politics and policy. Thus, by the end of the course each student should have acquired:

1. a knowledge of the historical patterns of Latin American countries
2. an understanding of the inter- and intra-country variation within Latin America

3. an understanding of the basic concepts used to study and explain Latin American politics, such as populism, corporatism, dependency, authoritarianism, democratic consolidation, and so on.
4. an understanding of the contemporary policy issues affecting Latin American nations today

## Course Materials and Resources

**All materials will be free / Open Educational Resources. The readings will be included in each module**

## Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

The course requires the completion of the following assignments:

- Class activities / participation
- Film review and discussion
- Section Exams
- Final Project

All grades will be posted on Canvas. After the grades have been posted, students have one week to make corrections or challenge the grade. After the week, grades become final. If you wish to challenge a grade that has been posted, please email the professor explaining the reason for the challenge and supporting evidence. The professor will review the assignment accordingly. *Keep in mind that if there is a review of the assignment, the grade may go up, but it may also go down if some things were missed during the initial grading.*

### Academic Engagement for Financial Aid Activity (1%)

All faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the academic activity indicated in the Week 1 Module by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday of the first week of class

(11:59 pm). Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. Please open Module 1 to see what you need to do to complete this requirement.

**Class Activities / Participation (20%)**

Class participation is very important because it is a measure of your engagement with the course material. Participation also enables the instructor to know whether students are understanding the material and if there needs to be more support in certain areas. I encourage students to read the material before class so you can come prepared to discuss it in class and/or ask questions.

Class activities will take a variety of forms to provide everyone with an opportunity to showcase their particular strengths and to develop new ones. This requires that students keep up with the readings.

If you will need to miss a class/assignment because it conflicts with a religious observance, you must let the instructor know by the second week of class (for example, in the case of any of the exams or class assignments). Failure to give notice will result in a loss of points for that assignment.

**Film Review and Discussion (10%)**

This class will partner with the Latin American/Latinx Film Festival to be held at the University of Central Florida. You will be required to attend at least one of the films and provide a review applying what you learned in the class. More details will be available in the respective module.

## Final Project (25%)

The final project will be your opportunity to do research into a topic of your choice. Your project can take various forms (website, podcast, video documentary, fictitious organization). More information will be provided in the respective module. The final project is a team project. Individual projects are not acceptable. The last day to submit the project is **Monday, November 25.**

### Examinations (45%)*

There will be four examinations in this course - three midterms and a final exam. The final examination will be cumulative. Although there will be 4 exams (15 points each), only the highest 3 will count. Thus, if you are satisfied with your grade in the first 3 exams, you do not need to take the final exam. Please refer to the respective modules for instructions regarding each exam.

## Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | Percentage |
|---|---|
| A | 94-100% |
| A- | 90-93% |
| B+ | 87-89% |
| B | 84-86% |
| B- | 80-83% |
| C+ | 77-79% |
| C | 74-76% |
| C- | 70-73% |
| D+ | 67-69% |
| D | 64-66% |
| D- | 61-63% |
| F | 0-60% |

## Policies for Course Grade

### Missed/Late Assignments - Makeup Work Policy

This course has a very generous drop policy. The lowest exam score will be dropped as well as the two lowest class activity scores. This means that if something happens that prevents you from doing a particular assignment, you should not worry because it will be

dropped at the end of the term. Due to these policies, there will be no makeup assignments and late assignments will not be accepted.

Please make sure to observe the deadlines and plan accordingly.

### Violations to Academic Integrity

Please read the Academic Integrity Policy below very carefully. In addition, to what is included in that statement this class has additional items. Any violation of academic integrity (including cheating, plagiarism, use of AI, sharing of quiz/exam questions and answers, copy/pasting multiple sections on the discussions and so on) will result in a 0 for that particular assignment. If there is a second incident, this will result in an F for the entire course as well as the student being reported to the Student Conduct and Integrity Office.

### Attendance

As mentioned above, attendance is very important since it is a way to engage with the material and exchange views and information with your peers. In addition, by participating you help to create a learning community that will provide support as you go through the term.

## Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

## Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

**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*. 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.

## Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. 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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI

Initiatives)

- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

## Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty of staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

## Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

## Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.

    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

## Financial Aid Accountability

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