

## **Change in Latin America**

Fall 2012  
790:312  
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Hickman 608

The objective of this course is to introduce students to policy issues in the relations between the United States and Latin America, and to the contemporary politics and society of selected Latin American countries. The countries selected – Mexico, Brazil, and Venezuela – have considerable influence on developments in the rest of the region. In recent decades, Brazil and Mexico have each experienced transitions from authoritarian to democratic regimes and from highly protected economies to ones much more open to international markets. Venezuela has gone from a two-party democratic state to one dominated by a populist leader. We will examine and compare the way each society has faced the challenges associated with these fundamental transformations..

**Grades** will be based on the following:

- A midterm exam on U.S. policy toward Latin America (one-third)
- A midterm exam on Venezuela (one third)
- A midterm exam on Brazil and Mexico (one third)

### **Attendance policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website [//https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra//](https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

### **Books assigned for the course**

Peter Kingston and Timothy J. Power, eds. *Democratic Brazil Revisited: Actors, Institutions, and Processes*. University of Pittsburgh Press 2008.

Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith, and James N. Green. *Modern Latin America* (Oxford University Press, seventh edition)

Kurt Weyland, Raul L. Madrid, and Wendy Hunter, eds., *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings*. Cambridge University Press 2010.

## **Assignments**

**Wednesday, September 5:** Introduction to class.

**Monday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 12:** Historical background  
Skidmore and Smith, pp. 3-43

**Monday, September 17: Dynamics of Political Transformation**  
Skidmore and Smith, pp. 376-403

**Wednesday, September 19 and Monday, September 24: Dynamics of Economic Change.**  
Skidmore and Smith, pp. 351-376.

**Wednesday, September 26: Review**

**Monday, October 1: First Midterm Exam**

**Wednesday, October 3, Monday, October 8, and Wednesday, October 10:**

**Latin America and the Rise of the Left**

Jorge Castaneda, "Latin America's Left Turn," Foreign Affairs, 85,3 (on Sakai site)

Weyland, Madrid, and Hunter, *Leftist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings*, pp. 1-28

## **IV. Venezuela and the Rise of the Left**

**Monday, October 15 and Wednesday, October 17: Historical Background.**  
Skidmore and Smith, pp. 219-244.

**Monday, October 22, Wednesday, October 24, Monday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 31: The Chavez Regime.**

Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold-Becarra, "Crowding out the Opposition," *Journal of Democracy*, 18.2 (2007). (on sakai site)

Weyland, Madrid, and Hunter, pp. 28-57.

**Monday, November 5: Review**

**Wednesday, November 7: Midterm Exam**

### **III. Brazil**

**Monday, November 12, and Wednesday, November 14: Historical Overview**

Skidmore and Smith, pp. 306-349

Kingstone and Power, Democratic Brazil

**Monday, November 19**

Kingstone and Power, Democratic Brazil

Weyland, Madrid and Hunter, pp. 98-140

**Wednesday, November 21: Thanksgiving**

### **III. Mexico**

**Monday, November 26, Wednesday, November 28, Monday, December 3 and Wednesday, December 5:**

Skidmore and Smith, pp. 45-82

Rubio and Purcell, Mexico under Fox (on sakai site)

**Monday, December 10: Review**

**Wednesday, December 12: Midterm Exam**