



Pol Sci 159 (67475), Winter 2020

## Latin American Politics

TuTh 3:30-4:50 p.m., Social Science Tower (SST), Room 220B



**Instructor:** Wynand Kastart

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**Office hours:** TuTh 2:00-3:00 p.m. (and by appointment),  
3151 Social Science Plaza (SSPB), Room 5239

The contents of this syllabus may be subject to changes throughout the quarter, which will be announced in advance (i.e., before they come into effect).

### Course Description

Latin America is adrift. In 2019 alone, peaceful protest movements have posed serious challenges to governments in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru and Venezuela. In several of these countries, the adversaries of democracy have embarked upon the electoral route to dictatorship with various degrees of success. In others, democratic institutions have remained stable yet dysfunctional, falling short of meeting the expectations of the societal actors that fought for them. What are the causal forces that drive phenomena such as these? The premise of this class is that we cannot understand present-day Latin American politics without understanding its past. Drawing upon recent insights from within the field of Comparative Politics, this course explores the legacies left behind by the democracies and dictatorships of Latin America's past. To do so, it starts by laying out the conceptual groundwork for examining both the definitional overlap between democracy, dictatorship and political conflict, and the causal and empirical links that connect them (Part I). Next, this course examines whether and how the political past shapes present-day manifestations of political conflict. It does so by first tracing the enormous variability in the political histories of the countries of Latin America (Part II), and next by investigating the political implications of these differences for the shape and stability of political institutions, as well as the strength and orientations of the political actors that enforce, exploit or oppose them (Part III).

**Units:** 4

### Required Textbook

Smith, Peter H. and Cameron J. Sells (2017), *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 3rd ed., Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

## Course Requirements (percentages indicate weights for your final score):

<b>Class Attendance</b>	<b>5%</b>
Each class, students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet.	
<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>5%</b>
There will be occasional pop quizzes to assess class participation.	
<b>Assignments (4 in total; 15% each)</b>	<b>60%</b>
Submit a total of 4 assignments (paper copies due in class):	
#1 due on Thursday (3:30 p.m.) of Week 3 (1/23).	
#2 due on Thursday (3:30 p.m.) of Week 5 (2/6).	
#3 due on Thursday (3:30 p.m.) of Week 7 (2/20).	
#4 due on Thursday (3:30 p.m.) of Week 9 (3/5).	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
Tuesday 3/17, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Social Science Tower (SST), Room 220B.	

### Class Attendance and Class Participation (each worth 5% of final score)

Class attendance is mandatory, affects your grade and will be recorded using in-class sign-in sheets. You can request excused absences for illness, familial situations demanding your immediate attention, religious observances, and official UCI business. Each class, you are expected to have read the assigned materials in advance, to have studied the previous lecture, and to participate actively and meaningfully. To assess your class participation, there will be occasional pop quizzes on that day's readings and the material presented in the previous day's lecture.

### Assignments (each worth 15% of final score)

Students are required to submit a total of four assignments (printed copies are due in class on the dates listed in the syllabus). Students should complete these assignments on their own. Late assignments will be heavily penalized. Assignments include opportunities for extra credit to improve your final score. The assignments are posted on Canvas.

### Final Exam (worth 30% of final score)

The final exam is cumulative and will cover the material from Weeks 1-10. On the exam, students will be asked to answer 20 multiple choice questions (worth  $\frac{1}{3}$  of exam points) and several short essay questions (worth  $\frac{2}{3}$  of exam points). Essay questions are similar to assignment questions. The final exam takes place on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-6:00 p.m., in Social Science Tower (SST), Room 220B.

### Reading Requirements

The assigned readings are listed in the course outline presented below and are indicated by citations, which refer to the full list of references presented at the end of this syllabus. Some citations only assign particular chapters or pages. For instance, "Dahl (1973, Chapters 1 and 3)" only assigns Chapters 1 and 3 of "Dahl, Robert Alan (1973), *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press" for that particular class date. All assigned readings can be accessed via Canvas, except Smith and Sells (2017).

## Letter Grade Policies

Your final score can range from 0 to 100 points (excluding extra credit). After adding extra credit, and together with the remaining grade policies detailed below, your final score will determine your final letter grade, which will be assigned on the basis of the following letter grade distribution:

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

### How to Obtain an A+

An A+ is awarded to students who have earned an A for the class and have successfully completed an empirical research project ( $\pm 15$  pp.) no later than Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m. Students who wish to work on such a project should notify the instructor no later than Week 5.

### Academic Integrity

Learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an environment of academic integrity and honesty. This environment can be maintained only when all participants recognize the importance of upholding the highest ethical standards. All student work, including quizzes, exams, reports, and papers must be the work of the individual receiving credit. Academic dishonesty includes, for example, cheating on examinations or any assignment, plagiarism of any kind (including improper citation of sources), having someone else take an examination or complete an assignment for you (or doing this for someone else), or any activity in which you represent someone else's work as your own. Violations of academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct. The impact on your grade will be determined by the individual instructor's policies. Please familiarize yourself with UCI's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://aisc.uci.edu/policies/academic-integrity/index.php>) and speak to your instructor if you have any questions about what is and is not allowed in this course.

### Re: Note Selling

Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/ study guides to their classmates. Please be advised that selling a faculty member's notes/ study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using UCI e-mail, Canvas, or EEE violates both UCI information technology and UCI intellectual property policy. Selling the faculty member's notes/ study guides to fellow students in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy are considered violations of the Code of Student Conduct and will be reported to the Academic Integrity Administrative Office, as a violation of course rules (academic misconduct). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/ study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities.

### Notifications via Canvas

The default notification settings for Canvas can be found online at <https://help.eee.uci.edu/canvas>. Students can customize these settings as they wish. Please note that these customizations apply to all courses in which you are enrolled. For instance, you cannot have messages forwarded for one course, but not for others. By default, you will receive messages ("conversations") and announcements forwarded to your UCI account; if you choose to modify this default setting, it is your responsibility to make sure you check Canvas regularly for communications.

## Course Outline

The weekly coverage is tentative and might change as it depends on the progress of the class. However, you must keep up with the assigned readings as indicated by the citations, which refer to the list of references.

Week	Topics and Readings
	<b>Part I: Democracy, Dictatorship and Political Science</b>
Week 1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/7:</b> Course Requirements <i>Readings:</i> class syllabus.</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/9:</b> The Principles of Political Science <i>Readings:</i> n.a.</li> </ul>
Week 2	<p><b>Dimensions of Democracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/14:</b> Competition and Participation <i>Readings:</i> Dahl (1973, Chapters 1 and 3)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/16:</b> Competitive Elections and Executive Constraints <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Introduction)</li> </ul>
Week 3	<p><b>Democracy, Semi-Democracy and Dictatorship in Latin America</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/21:</b> Political Regime Types (1): Concepts <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 10)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/23:</b> Political Regime Types (2): Variables <i>Readings:</i> Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán (2013, Chapter 3) <i>Assignment 1 is to be submitted in class no later than 3:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
	<b>Part II: Political History</b>
Week 4	<p><b>Democracy Past and Present</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 1/28:</b> Waves and Cycles of Democracy <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 1)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 1/30:</b> Argentina <i>Readings:</i> Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán (2013, Chapter 5)</li> </ul>
Week 5	<p><b>The Dictatorships of the Past</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/4:</b> The Military <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 3)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/6:</b> El Salvador <i>Readings:</i> Mainwaring and Pérez-Liñán (2013, Chapter 6) <i>Assignment 2 is to be submitted in class no later than 3:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>

(Course outline continued on the next page.)

Course outline (continued from the previous page):

Week	Topics and Readings
Week 6	<p><b>The Collapse of Dictatorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/11:</b> Democratic Transitions <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 2)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/13:</b> Mexico <i>Readings:</i> Flores-Macías (2018)</li> </ul>
<b>Part III: The Legacies of the Past</b>	
Week 7	<p><b>Authoritarian Legacies (1): Political Institutions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/18:</b> Guest Lecture about Chile by Dr. Rodrigo Espinoza Troncoso: “Stable but Unresponsive: The Rise and Demise of Pinochet’s Constitution” <i>Readings:</i> Albertus and Menaldo (2018, Chapter 7)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/20:</b> Institutional Design <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 6) <i>Assignment 3 is to be submitted in class no later than 3:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
Week 8	<p><b>Authoritarian Legacies (2): Political Actors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 2/25:</b> Political Parties and Electoral Competition <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 7)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 2/27:</b> Brazil <i>Readings:</i> Power (2018)</li> </ul>
Week 9	<p><b>The Legacies of Democracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 3/3:</b> Protest and Rebellion <i>Readings:</i> Almeida (2008, Introduction and Chapter 1)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 3/5:</b> Colombia and Venezuela <i>Readings:</i> Bejarano (2011, Chapter 6) <i>Assignment 4 is to be submitted in class no later than 3:30 p.m.</i></li> </ul>
Week 10	<p><b>The Dialectic of Democracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday 3/10:</b> The Domestication of Democracy <i>Readings:</i> Smith and Sells (2017, Chapter 12 and Epilogue)</li> <li>• <b>Thursday 3/12:</b> The Populist Response <i>Readings:</i> Loxton and Levitsky (2018)</li> </ul>

(Course outline continued on the next page.)

Course outline (continued from the previous page):

Week	Topics and Readings
	<b>Final Exam</b>
Week 11	<p><b>Final Exam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tuesday, 3/17, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Social Science Tower (SST), Room 220B. Please do not forget to bring along your blue book!</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Final Exam Material:</i> all readings and lectures from Weeks 1-10.</p>

## List of References

- Albertus, Michael and Victor Menaldo (2018), *Authoritarianism and the Elite Origins of Democracy*, New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press.
- Almeida, Paul D. (2008), *Waves of Protest: Popular Struggle in El Salvador, 1925-2005*, Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press.
- Bejarano, Ana María (2011), *Precarious Democracies: Understanding Regime Stability and Change in Colombia and Venezuela*, Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press.
- Dahl, Robert Alan (1973), *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press.
- Flores-Macías, Gustavo (2018), “Mexico’s PRI: The Resilience of an Authoritarian Successor Party and Its Consequences for Democracy”, in: *Life After Dictatorship: Authoritarian Successor Parties Worldwide*, ed. by James Loxton and Scott Mainwaring, Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, pp. 257–83.
- Loxton, James and Steven Levitsky (2018), “Personalistic Authoritarian Successor Parties in Latin America”, in: *Life After Dictatorship: Authoritarian Successor Parties Worldwide*, ed. by James Loxton and Scott Mainwaring, Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, pp. 113–41.
- Mainwaring, Scott and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán (2013), *Democracies and Dictatorships in Latin America: Emergence, Survival, and Fall*, New York, N.Y.: Cambridge University Press.
- Power, Timoty (2018), “The Contrasting Trajectories of Brazil’s Two Authoritarian Successor Parties”, in: *Life After Dictatorship: Authoritarian Successor Parties Worldwide*, ed. by James Loxton and Scott Mainwaring, Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, pp. 229–53.
- Smith, Peter H. and Cameron J. Sells (2017), *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 3rd ed., Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

**A note about the list of references:** The list of references presented above is primarily meant as a resource for you to use if you’d like to follow up on a given topic. Please note that students are only required to read the material indicated in the course outline presented above. For instance, you are only required to read Chapters 1 and 3 of Dahl (1973), not the whole book.