

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies

IRLS355

Latin American Politics

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Prerequisite: COLL100

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course is designed to familiarize students with the politics of contemporary Latin America. The course will cover such topics as the various types of political systems found in Latin America, the political economy of development, and the issue of regime transition.

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Course Scope

Latin American Politics provides the student an in-depth coverage of government and politics in contemporary Latin America. This course teaches the student to assess important factors that influence the development of social and political structures in Latin America. Students use the course material, class discussion, and a final paper to analyze the current and future conditions in various regional states.

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Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

CO 1 Assess the social and political structure of Latin American countries

CO 2 Examine the influence of state and non-state actors in Latin American politics

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CO 3 Appraise the domestic and foreign policy priorities of Latin American countries

CO 4 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of political institutions in the region.

CO 5 Examine the role of the military in politics and government in Latin America.

CO 6 Compare and contrast presidentialism in Latin American countries

CO 7 Appraise the role of populism in Latin American countries.

CO 8 Diagnose the health of democratic institutions and threats to democracy in Latin America.

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Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. Three responses are required each week. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Various resources from the APUS Library are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the course eReserve

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Evaluation Procedures

Each assignment will be evaluated by the instructor using a rubric scoring guide and comments inserted into the Word document. Forum grades will be determined using a rubric scoring guide. Additionally, comments may be given informally within the forum or in more detail within the forum grader tool.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments and late forum posts will be accepted under certain circumstances. A student request for late submission must be initiated twenty-four (24) hours prior to the assignment deadline. Without prior permission by the instructor, late work will be assessed a five (5) percent penalty per day.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE: All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Forums) must follow the Turabian citation method. An online copy of may be found at:

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http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html. Students should be aware that in-text citations are the preferred method for citing sources (rather than in footnotes or endnotes). Any notes used in essays or assignments should be limited to extraneous information that the student wishes to include. The format for in-text citations is given in the Turabian guide linked above. Students are to use the parenthetical form (P) within the text of the document and the reference list form (R) in providing a list of sources. See more information on citation style in the Week 1 Lesson.

Grade Instruments for IRLS355	Percentage of Grade
Forums	30
Progress Assignment 1 (paper topic selection)	5
Progress Assignment 2 (outline and reference list)	10
Midterm	25
Final	30
Total	100

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

For all university policies, including grading system, extensions, and disability accommodations, please see the [APUS Student Handbook](#).

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8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	The layout of Latin American politics	CO 1 Assess the social and political structure of Latin American countries	<p>Read: Drake Schneider</p> <p>Study: Week One Lecture Notes. Latin American Public Opinion Project website.</p>	<p>Student Introduction in Week One Forum Discussion due.</p> <p>Note: All initial answers to forum discussions are due on Thursdays at 11:55pm ET. All follow-ups to discussions are due on Sundays at 11:55pm ET. All assignments are due on Sundays at 11:55pm ET. Course materials are available via the Lessons link and the library e-reserves.</p>
2	The struggles of presidentialism and application of populism	<p>CO 6 Compare and contrast presidentialism in Latin American countries</p> <p>CO 7 Appraise the role of populism in Latin American countries.</p>	<p>Read: Marsteintredet and Berntzen Valenzuela Posada-Carbó Alvarez</p> <p>Study: Week Two Lecture Notes.</p> <p>Watch: Tulane: Politics</p>	<p>Week Two Forum Discussion due.</p>

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			and Government in Latin America: Part 1	
3	Which way is Left or Right in Latin American politics?	<p>CO 1 Assess the social and political structure of Latin American countries</p> <p>CO 2 Examine the influence of state and non-state actors in Latin American politics</p> <p>CO 3 Appraise the domestic and foreign policy priorities of Latin American countries</p> <p>CO 4 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of political institutions in the region.</p>	<p>Read: Cardoso Lagos Walker Payne, Zovatto, and Mateo Diaz (editors). Chapter 6</p> <p>Study: Week Three Lecture Notes.</p>	<p>Week Three Forum Discussion due.</p> <p>Week Three Progress Assignment due (final paper topic selection)</p>
4	The military in politics - a marriage of convenience	<p>CO 5 Examine the role of the military in politics and government in Latin America.</p>	<p>Read: Lewis: Chapter 1: The “Oligarchy” and the “People” Kaiser – Chapter 1 – Conversations about Knowledge: Why Did it Happen? Ruhl</p> <p>Study: Week Four Lecture Notes.</p> <p>Watch:</p>	<p>Week Four Forum Discussion due.</p> <p>Midterm Assignment due</p>

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			TheRealNews series on the Honduran coup	
5	You say you want a revolution?	CO 2 Examine the influence of state and non-state actors in Latin American politics	<p>Read: La Rosa and Mejia: Chapter 12 – Revolutionary Movements Schatzman</p> <p>Study: Week Five Lecture Notes.</p> <p>Watch: Carlos Fernando Chamorro talks to Alma Guillermoprieto about democracy in Nicaragua</p>	Week Five Forum Discussion due.
6	Trouble in paradise? Violence and corruption challenge democracy	<p>CO 1 Assess the social and political structure of Latin American countries</p> <p>CO 2 Examine the influence of state and non-state actors in Latin American politics</p> <p>CO 3 Appraise the domestic and foreign policy priorities of Latin American countries</p> <p>CO 4 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of political institutions in the region.</p>	<p>Read: Guillermoprieto Isaacs Mahoney-Norris Pion-Berlin and Trinkunas Seligson and Booth Boniface</p> <p>Study: Week Six Lecture Notes Transparency International – Corruption Perceptions Index</p>	<p>Week Six Forum Discussion due.</p> <p>Progress Assignment due- outline and reference list for final paper</p>

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			(website) Freedom House – Americas (website)	
7	The Church, indigesmo, the media and fútbol (soccer)	CO 1 Assess the social and political structure of Latin American countries CO 2 Examine the influence of state and non-state actors in Latin American politics	Read: Levine Cleary and Steigenga Lugo-Ocando Bar-On Study: Week Seven Lecture Notes.	Week Seven Forum Discussion due.
8	The state of things: assessing continued challenges and contemporary triumphs	CO 8 Diagnose the health of democratic institutions and threats to democracy in Latin America.	Read: Grugel Reid: Chapter 11 - The stubborn resistance of flawed democracies Study: Week Eight Lecture Notes. Watch: Always promising: the future of Latin America (video)	Week Eight Forum Discussion due. Week Eight Final Assignment due

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

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Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

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- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), J

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- ***Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:*** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

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- ***Electronic Books:*** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- ***Electronic Journals:*** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

• ***Tutor.com:*** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

• Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.

• Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:

librarian@apus.edu.

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Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

Required Readings

Alvarez, Angel. 2011. Countries at the crossroads 2011: Venezuela. Freedom House.
http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/VENEZUELA.pdf

Bar-On T. 1997. The ambiguities of football, politics, culture, and social transformation in Latin America. *Sociological Research Online* 2, no. 4.
<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/2/4/2.html>.

Boniface, Dexter. 2009. Dealing with threats to democracy. In *Which way Latin America? : Hemispheric politics meets globalization*, ed. Andrew Fenton Cooper, 182-201. JPN: United Nations University Press. (Chapter 9- Dealing with threats to democracy.)

Burt, Jo-Marie. 2011. Countries at the crossroads 2011: Peru. Freedom House.
http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/PERUFINAL.pdf

Cardoso, Fernando. 2006. More than ideology: the conflation of populism with the Left in Latin America. *Harvard International Review* (Summer): 14-17

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Cleary, Edward. 2004. *Resurgent Voices in Latin America: Indigenous Peoples, Political Mobilization and Religious Change*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. (Chapter 1 – Indians, Politics, and Religion in Latin America, 1-24)

Drake, Paul. 2009. *Between tyranny and anarchy: a history of democracy in Latin America*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. (Chapter 1 - The theory and history of Latin American democracy, 1800-2006, 1-22)

Gooren, Henri. 2010. The pentecostalizing of religion and society in Latin America. *Exchange* 39: 355-376.

Grugel, Jean. 2007. Latin America after the Third Wave. *Government and Opposition* 62, 2: 242-257.

Guillermoprieto, Alma. 2010. Poverty of opportunity: crime's breeding ground. *Americas Quarterly*. (Spring): 50-55.

Isaacs, Anita. 2010. Trouble in Central America: Guatemala on the brink. *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2. (April): 123-135.

Kaiser, Susana. 2005. *Postmemories of terror: A new generation copes with the legacy of the Dirty War*. Gordonsville, VA: Palgrave Macmillan. (Chapter 7 – Conversations about justice, 131-146)

Lagos, Marta. 2008. The democracy barometers: Latin America's diversity of views. *Journal of Democracy* 19, no. 1 (January): 11-114, 19-125.

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LaRosa, Michael and German Mejia. 2005. *Atlas and survey of Latin American history*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc. (Chapter 12 – Revolutionary Movements, 150-161)

Levine, Daniel. 2010. Reflections on the mutual impact of violence and religious change in Latin America. *Latin American Politics and Society* 52, no. 3: 131-150.

Lewis, Paul. 2002. *Guerillas and generals: the “Dirty War” in Argentina*. Westport, CT: Praeger. Google Books.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=NtZ3EvNYxjYC&lpg=PR9&ots=WearovG8li&dq=Argentina%20Dirty%20Wars&lr&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Lugo-Ocando, Jairo. 2008. *Media in Latin America*. McGraw-Hill International (UK) Limited. (Chapter 1 - An introduction to the *maquilas* of power: media and political transition in Latin America, 1-12)

Mahoney-Norris, Kathleen. 1998. Democracy, human rights, and national security in Central America: irreconcilable bedfellows? In *Democratization and the protection of human rights: Challenges and contradictions*, ed. Patricia Campbell. Westport, CT, Praeger Publishers. (Chapter 4 – do not have page number)

Marsteintredet, Leiv and Einar Berntzen. 2008. Reducing the perils of presidentialism in Latin America through presidential interruptions . *Comparative Politics* 41, no 1. (October): 83-101.

Payne, Mark, Daniel Zovatto and Mercedes Mateo Diaz, eds. 2007. *Democracies in development: politics and reform in Latin America*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank. (Chapter 8 - Direct Democracy Institutions, 221-239.)

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Pion-Berlin, David and Harold Trinkunas. 2011. Latin America's growing security gap. *Journal of Democracy* 22, no 1. (January): 35-53.

Posada-Carbó, Eduardo. 2011. Colombia after Uribe. *Journal of Democracy* 22, no. 1. (January) 137-151.

Reid, Michael. 2008. *Forgotten continent: the battle for Latin America's soul*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. (Chapter 11- The stubborn resistance of flawed democracies, 264-292)

Ruhl, J. 2010. Honduras unravels. *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2. (April): 93-107.

Schatzman, Christina. 2005. Political challenge in Latin America: rebellion and collective protest in an era of democratization. *Journal of Peace Research* 42, no 3: 291-310.

Schneider, Ronald. 2010. *Comparative Latin American Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (Introduction and Overview of Latin America. 1-9).

Seligon, Mitchell and John Booth. 2010. Trouble in Central America: crime, hard times and discontent. *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 2. (April): 123-135.

Valenzuela, Arturo. 2004. Latin American Presidencies interrupted. *Journal of Democracy* 15, no. 4. (October): 5-19.

Walker, Ignacio. 2008. The three Lefts of Latin America. *Dissent* 55, no 4: 5-12.