

The University of Western Ontario
Political Science 3322G
Latin America in Global Perspective

Winter 2014

Instructor: Verónica Schild
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Classes: Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Class location: Rm. SSC 4105
Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
or by appointment

Course Outline

Latin America in the new millennium is characterized by profound economic, social, political and cultural transformations, with equally powerful and far-reaching effects for the majority of the population. These transformations have tended to be linked to “globalization”, a concept used critically and uncritically to draw attention to the dynamic interrelationships between international, regional, national, and local affairs in all domains of human concern. Globalization is often used as a shorthand for changes seen to be unique, unprecedented, and the outcome of forces outside the contested terrain of politics and social power. For optimists, globalization is equivalent to “modernization”, and holds the promise that the Latin American region can, at last, escape poverty and underdevelopment. Critics underscore the peculiar nature of the development that the region has undergone in the past two decades. Increased levels of poverty, immiseration, and exclusion have accompanied the present transformations linked to the region’s integration to global capitalism and this, they insist, is a clear indication that Latin American countries cannot be said to be developing in any meaningful sense. Globalization, for them, is simply the new imperialism.

This course cannot resolve the debate around Latin America and globalization, but it does offer some important tools to engage with it. Using a critical approach that is historically informed, it begins from one obvious fact: Latin America’s fate, since colonial times, has been tied to that of the international economy. Modern Latin America, which will be the focus of our course, has been shaped throughout by continuing interactions between foreign and domestic forces, and the economic dimension has been central. One question we will explore, in light of this, is what is distinctive for Latin America about the dynamics and processes associated with neoliberal globalization? Furthermore, the impact of neoliberalism, and the promise and perils of global economic integration, dominate politics in the region. Social justice and meaningful democracy were the goals of revolutionary politics throughout the Twentieth Century. As recent popular, indigenous and youth mobilizations suggest, social justice and meaningful democracy continue to be unresolved political goals for the majority. A second question we will explore, then, is what forms are politics and contentious politics taking today and, are some of the forms of political resistance coalescing into alternatives to neoliberal globalization?

Prerequisites/Antirequisites

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Format and Requirements

This course involves weekly mini lectures and discussions which are complemented by the assigned readings. Students are expected to attend class and to be prepared to participate actively in discussions of the readings.

The requirements are as follows:

Participation	20%
Journal Entries	20%
Term paper of 12-15 typed pages	35%
Final Examination	25%

1. **Participation (20% of the mark):** Everyone is expected to be prepared to discuss the weekly readings and issues raised by the lectures. The total mark for participation will take into account the quality and quantity of contribution to discussions.

2. **Journal Entries (20% of the mark):** 6 one-page critical summaries of weekly readings are to be submitted for evaluation (Instructions on journal entries will be handed out in class). You are asked to submit them **on the week that the materials are covered.**

3. **Term paper (35% of the mark):** A term paper (12-15 typewritten, double-spaced pages) directly related to the course topic will be due on **March 6**. Instructions for selecting essay topics will be handed out by the instructor. **Essay topics must be approved by the instructor.** For this purpose you must **submit a paper outline** (including a **working bibliography**) no later than **February 13** and **meet with me to discuss it. Papers on topics not approved by me will not be accepted.**

Given the paucity of attention Latin America receives in the Canadian media, the Internet has become an invaluable source of information on the various countries of the region. Perhaps the most useful and informative web site for Latin Americanists is the University of Texas LANIC page (www.lanic.utexas.edu/la/). It provides access to extensive links on a variety of Latin America specific topics which are broken down in a user friendly manner either by country or by

subject. In addition, many daily newspapers in Latin America can be accessed and read on the day of publication.

4. Final examination (25% of the mark): The final examination will consist of a take-home essay in two parts.

Late assignment submissions will be subject to a penalty of 5 percent per day (from due date until the date that the assignment is received by me, including weekends and holidays). Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and only if you approach me in advance with your request. Please note Western's new Medical Accommodation Policy. For detailed information and forms, please visit <http://studentservices.uwo.ca/semc/index.cfm> and for further policy information please visit http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Readings for the Course

The required readings for each topic, indicated by a number (1, 2), are drawn from the following texts available for purchase from the bookstore:

Duncan Green and Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th Edition. Monthly Review Press, 2012.

Naomi Klein. *The Shock Doctrine. The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. N.Y.: Picador, 2007.

Additional readings are from academic journals available electronically, or from books found at the short-term reserve desk at Weldon library.

Sources for Background Reading

In addition to the required and supplementary readings, you may find the following texts useful as background reading and in the preparation of your term paper.

Robert N. Gwynne and Cristóbal Kay. *Latin America Transformed: Globalization and Modernity*. London and New York: Arnold/Oxford University Press, 2004.

Leslie Bethell, ed. *Ideas and Ideologies in Twentieth Century Latin America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Leslie Bethell, ed. *Latin America. Economy and Society Since 1930*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Frederick Stirton Weaver. *Latin America in the World Economy*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 2000.

The principal specialist journals to consult for essays are the following:

Latin American Perspectives
Latin American Research Review
Journal of Latin American Studies
NACLA Report on the Americas
Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs
N/S Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies

In addition, students should consult the following for relevant articles:

Third World Quarterly
Development and Change
World Development
Journal of Development Studies
World Politics
Political Studies
Latin American Politics and Society
Review of International Political Economy
Signs
Gender and Society
Studies in Comparative International Development

Politics 3322G
Topics and Readings

WINTER SEMESTER

Introduction

Week 1 (January 9): Introduction to the Course: “Latin America”: Multiple Realities, Complex Origins

Part I: The Political Economy of Globalization: Old or New?

Week 2 (January 16): Latin America in Today’s Global Context: The Issues

- 1 Robert N. Gwynne and Cristobal Kay. “Latin America Transformed: Globalization and Neoliberalism.” Robert N. Gwynne and Cristobal Kay, eds. *Latin America Transformed. Globalization and Modernity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 3-21.
- 2 Lourdes Beneria. *Gender, Development, and Globalization. Economics as if All People Mattered*. New York: Routledge, 2003. Chapter 3.

Week 3 (January 23): The Political Economy of Globalization

- 1 William I. Robinson. *Latin America and Global Capitalism. A Critical Globalization Perspective*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008, Chapter 1.

Week 4 (January 30): Latin American Developmental Capitalism

- 1 Duncan Green and Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th Edition. Monthly Review Press, 2012. Chapter 1.
- 2 Frederick Stirton Weaver. *Latin America in the World Economy*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, 2000. Chapter 5.

Week 5 (February 6): Globalization and the Elusive Promise of Latin American Development

- 1 William I Robinson. *Latin America and Global Capitalism*, 2008, Chapters 2, 3.

- 2 Annette Aurélie Desmarais and Luis Hernández Navarro. “Voices from Maputo: La Vía Campesina’s Fifth International Conference.” *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 42, 3 (May/June 2009): 22-26.

Week 6 (February 13): Environmental and Social Impacts of Neoliberal Global Integration: The Canadian Connection

- 1 Duncan Green and Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th Edition. Monthly Review Press, 2012. Chapter 3.
- 1 Raúl Zibechi. “Latin America: A New Cycle of Social Struggles.” *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 45, 2 (Summer 2012): 37-49.

Week 7 (February 20): **Conference Week. No Class**

Week 8 (February 27): The Neoliberal Global Order in Comparative Perspective

- 1 Naomi Klein. *The Shock Doctrine. The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*. N.Y.: Picador, 2007.

Week 9 (March 6): The U.S. and Latin America Today: A New Twist on an Old Relation
. ESSAY IS DUE TODAY

- 1 Thomas F. O’Brein. *Making the Americas: The United States and Latin America from the Age of Revolution to the Era of Globalization*. Albuquerque, N.M.: University of New Mexico Press, 2007, Chapter 10.
- 3 Jorge I. Domínguez. “Electoral Intervention in the Americas: Uneven and Unanticipated Results.” *NACLA Report on the Americas*, 40, 1 (January/February 2007): 26-29.

Week 10 (March 13): Imperfect Democracies and New Citizenships

- 1 Duncan Green and Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th Edition. Monthly Review Press, 2012. Chapter 4.
- 2 Verónica Schild. “Empowering Consumer Citizens or Governing Poor Female Subjects? The Institutionalization of “Self-Development” in the Chilean Social Policy Field.” *Journal of Consumer Culture* 7, 2 (2007): 179-203.

Week 11 (March 20): Globalization and Indigenous Politics

- 1 José Antonio Lucero. "Indigenous Politics: Between Democracy and Danger." In Peter Kingstone and Deborah J. Yashar, eds. *The Handbook of Latin American Politics*. N.Y.: Routledge, 2012: 285- .
- 2 Nancy Postero. "The Struggle to Create a Radical Democracy in Bolivia." *Latin American Research Review* 45, Special Issue (2010): 59-78.
- 3 Jeffery R. Webber. *From Rebellion to Reform in Bolivia. Class Struggle, Indigenous Liberation, and the Politics of Evo Morales*. Chicago, Ill.: Haymarket Books, 2011, Chapter 6.

Week 12 (March 27): Christianity and Politics in Latin America

- 1 Duncan Green and Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th Edition. Monthly Review Press, 2012. Chapter 5.
- 2 Alain Gheerbrant. *The Rebel Church in Latin America*. Penguin Books, 1974. Selections.

Week 13(April 3): Course Review

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.