

**ISSUES IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS:
DEMOCRACY, DICTATORSHIP, AND OTHERWISE**

PSCI 4792
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Office Hours: Wed 1-2:30
KTCH 122
Spring 2019

MUEN E431

Mon-Wed 4:30-5:45

This course will explore patterns and processes of political transformation in contemporary Latin America. Specific topics will include: cycles of democratic change, electoral institutions and behavior, economic performance of democratic and (and non-democratic) governments, popular opinion about the merits of democracy, changing roles of the United States, and future scenarios for Latin American politics.

Required reading:

Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 2nd edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), hereinafter *Democracy*

Peter H. Smith and James N. Green, *Modern Latin America*, 9th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), hereinafter *MLA*

Selected readings on website (TBA)

Exams, assignments, and grading:

1. There will be a mid-term examination on **Wednesday, February 27** (25 percent of course grade)
2. Three-page policy memos will be due on **Wednesday, April 24** (25 percent of course grade)
3. Analytical papers will be due on **Friday, May 10** (50 percent of final grade). There will be no final exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 14: Finding Latin America: Disappointment and Surprise

Jan 16: Course Design and Requirements

Democracy, Introduction

MLA, ch. 1

Jan 21: No Class (MLK Day)

Jan 23: Cycles of Change

Democracy, chs. 1-2, 4

Jan 28: Revolutions and Their Aftermaths

MLA, chs. 3, 5 (Mexico, Cuba)

Jan 30: Discussion: Why Then and Not Now?

Feb 04: Toppling Military Rule I

Video: "No"

Feb 06: Toppling Military Rule II

Video: "No" + discussion (Chile)

MLA, ch. 10

Feb 11: The Military in Retreat

Democracy, ch. 3

Feb 13: Discussion/Amnesty for Generals?

Feb 11: Reshaping Political Institutions: The Debates

Democracy, chs. 5-6

MLA, chs. 6, 9 (Andes, Argentina)

Feb 13: Reshaping Political Institutions: The Results

Feb 18: Ups, Downs, and Uncertainties:

Video: “Garden of the Forking Paths” (Argentina)

Feb 20: Elections: Who Wins, Loses, and Why

Democracy, ch. 7

MLA, chs. 8, 11 (Venezuela, Brazil)

Feb 26: Mid-Term Review

Feb 27: MID-TERM EXAM

Mar 04: The Challenge of Drug Trafficking: Who Governs?

MLA, ch. 7 (Colombia)

Mar 06: Cost-Benefit Analyses

Video: “Maria Full of Grace”

Mar 11: Policies Against Drug Trafficking: Same Ole’

Mar 13: Policies Against Drug Trafficking: Alternatives

Mar 18: What Is a Policy Brief?

Mar 20: State Capacity and Policy Performance

Mar 25-29: SPRING BREAK

Apr 01: The Concept of Illiberal Democracy

Democracy, ch. 10

Apr 10: Liberal v. Illiberal Democracy

Apr 15: Changing Shapes of Democracy

Democracy, ch. 12

Apr 17: Discussion: Does Democracy Matter?

Apr 22: Expanding Women's Roles

Video: "In Women's Hands" (Chile)

Democracy, ch. 9

Apr 24: The People's Verdict [policy memos due]

Democracy, ch. 11

Apr 29: The Trump Effect

Reading and Viewing:

Bob Woodward, *Fear: Trump in the White House* (excerpts)

CNN, MSNBC, Fox, etc.

May 01: Synthesis and Prognosis

Democracy, Epilogue

MLA, ch. 13

May 10: FINAL PAPERS DUE

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the

OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please give the professor 48 hours of advanced notice for accommodation.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.