

Latin America Development (IAFF 2090, Spring 2014)

Professor Stephen B. Kaplan

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(202) 994-6680

Class Meetings

Elliott School of International Affairs
1957 E St., Room B17
Tuesday and Thursdays 2:20pm-3:35pm

Teaching Assistant

Barnett Koven, Ph.D. candidate
Department of Political Science
bkoven@email.gwu.edu

Professor Office Hours

470 Monroe Hall (2115 G Street)
Tuesdays 3:35pm-5:30pm, or by appt.

T.A. Office Hours

Davis-Hodgkins' House, 609 21st Street, 2nd floor
Thursdays 3:50-5:50, or by appt.

Course Goals and Descriptions:

This course introduces students to Latin America, a region of the world that has served as a virtual laboratory of capitalism and democracy over the last century. Ironically, as the United States struggles with the fallout from a severe financial crisis, including rising unemployment, a shrinking middle class, and growing social unrest, many Latin American nations appear to have stabilized economically and politically. Has Latin America found a viable third way compromise that embraces both market globalization and a strong state? Is Latin America's turn toward prosperity a long-term, sustainable trend? What lurking vulnerabilities threaten Latin America moving forward?

This course gives students the tools to evaluate such pressing issues with its explicitly interdisciplinary approach. A heavy emphasis will be placed on economic issues, given their fundamental importance to regional trends over the last several decades. However, the core lectures and readings will also cover a range of other subjects, including politics and history. Notably, students will complement these readings with other learning tools, such as media and film, which will help them better understand the region.

As a regional survey course, a key feature of this class is to provide students with a chance to hear lectures from both GW faculty experts and practitioners trained in a variety of disciplines, which is likely to be helpful in choosing future course work and career paths.

The structure of the course is provided by lectures and readings, but only through active intellectual engagement with the material will you make significant progress in understanding this highly complex and rapidly changing subject. It is important to think critically and deeply about these issues, and challenge one another by discussing the subject matter. *Be prepared to work hard and learn a lot!*

Learning Objectives:

- Build an interdisciplinary knowledge of the region's contemporary debates by leveraging course materials that range from economics and political science to history and literature.
- Employ these tools to evaluate Latin America's most pressing issues today.
- Critically compare and contrast specific country cases of economic and political development.
- Gain substantive knowledge about the region's economic and political challenges, including development, democratization, security, environmental sustainability, and immigration.

Class Policies:

Please respect the following policies, which are intended to ensure that everyone in this class has an interesting and enjoyable learning experience:

Economics: In light of the centrality of economics to regional events during the last several decades (i.e. Latin American debt crisis, hyperinflation, the 1990s financial crises, etc.) we will spend a fair amount of class time reading and discussing economic issues. This knowledge base is essential to understanding the region's politics and history. This course presumes that students have a basic knowledge of economics; its readings, lectures, and assignments are targeted at the level of mainstream economic publications, such as the *Economist*. Should students need to brush up on their economics for some topics, I have placed an international economics textbook on reserve at Gelman library, entitled *International Economics: Theory and Policy* by Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld (Addison Wesley).

Attendance: Students are *expected to attend all class* sessions unless documentation is given excusing an absence for medical, religious or personal reasons, or for official university business. Students must notify the TA or instructor as soon as possible (preferably in advance) of the reason for the absence. Unexcused absences will result in “zero” grades for any graded activities. Please come to class on time.

Policy on Religious Holidays: You should notify me during the first week of the semester of your intention to be absent from class on a day(s) of religious observance. If an assignment falls on a day you will be observing a religious holiday, we will work together to find an alternative time to complete the assignment. Please communicate with me about holidays in advance of the original due date.

Participation: Class participation is encouraged. To foster an environment of constructive participation, I *strongly recommend* you read the assignments well in advance of class and be ready to engage in the subject. Advanced preparation will help you benefit from the lectures more readily and actively engage in class discussions. (The amount of assigned readings varies from week to week. When you have a lighter workload, I also encourage you to be *pro-active* in your preparation for coming weeks.)

Required Discussion Forums: Our T.A., Barnett Koven, will be holding three *required* discussion forums during the semester that will seek to review the major economic and political concepts from class, via the assigned literature and film. We will be offering **two options for each of the three breakout sessions** (see the reading assignment section below) to accommodate your schedules. Please plan accordingly since these are required sessions. *If you have a conflict and cannot make either of these sections, let us know ASAP.* Otherwise, we will assume there is no conflict. These discussion forums are important opportunities for you to participate and digest the core concepts from class in a seminar setting. They are also great opportunities for you to enhance your communication skills. In both the broader class discussions and these forums, you should aim to build logical arguments, with sound evidence, and explicit consideration of alternative perspectives.

Blackboard: This course will use the Blackboard system. Many readings and announcements will be posted on Blackboard (for readings, see the “Files” section; and in some cases the “Electronic Reserves” section). I strongly encourage you to make sure you have access to and are familiar with the Blackboard system as soon as possible. *We will also post on Blackboard many of the additional readings that are not included in the class textbooks. I may adjust the readings as necessary – you are responsible for any changes to the syllabus and readings made by the instructor. Since guest lectures are a significant part of this course, there is a good chance such changes could occur.*

Electronic Devices: Before entering the classroom, *turn off* all smart phones, and other electronic devices.

Email: If you have lengthy questions or comments about the course, I encourage you to come talk to the TA or me in person. In addition to regular office hours, we are happy to set up appointments to meet with you. Please keep email communications brief. Finally, in the prelude to the exams and policy briefings, students

should also plan to address any substantive inquiries well before any deadlines. We cannot guarantee our availability, for example, within a 24-hour window.

Grade Complaints: Should any student have a complaint about a grade on an exam or policy briefing, they should do the following: first carefully review your exam to make sure that you correctly answered the question, then contact the TA to notify him of the issue, and finally submit a complaint in written form (1-2 paragraphs) explaining why you believe the grade you received was inaccurate. Please also note that when an exam or policy briefing is considered for a re-grade, the entire assignment will be reviewed, meaning the grade could increase or decrease based on your performance in the other areas of the exam.

Laptops: You are welcome to bring a laptop to class, but the volume must be set to “mute.”

Late Work: Late assignments will lose one third of a full grade (e.g., from an A to a A-, to B+ etc.) for each day after the deadline. There are only two exceptions to the late-assignment policy: illness or family emergency. If either of these circumstances applies, you must provide written documentation (such as a doctor’s note if you are ill), and you must communicate with me before the deadline (i.e., emailing me on the morning the assignment is due and saying you are sick is not acceptable for avoiding a penalty). I am willing to accommodate documented requests, but you must communicate with me before the assignment is due.

Academic Integrity: I expect full compliance with the GW Code of Academic Integrity, which states in part: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.”

For the remainder of the code, see: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>. If you are unsure about any aspect of this policy the Writing Center (<http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/>) can provide assistance on citation or other aspects of writing papers. Claiming ignorance about how or when to cite sources is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

Course Requirements:

Class Format:

Exams: Both the midterm and final exams will be in-class exams consisting of essay and short answer/identification sections. They will be based on readings, lectures, and discussions.

- **Class Participation (10%)** In addition to attendance, this includes a variety of in-class activities (such as class debates and discussions). It will also include participation in three one-hour discussion sessions led by the TA and held outside of lecture hours at times set by the instructor (multiple options will be available so that everyone can participate).
- **Midterm Exam (30%)**
- **Two Policy Briefings (20%)**
- **Final Exam-*comprehensive covering the entire course* (40%)**

Two Policy/Business Briefings: Students will work in groups during the final month of class on two regional case studies entitled *Mexico: Crisis and Competitiveness* and *Starbucks Corporation: Building a Sustainable Supply Chain in Latin America*. Student groups will prepare a *two-page policy/business briefing* offering a recommended course of action for each case study, due in class on **April 1st & April 17th** (further details will follow in Blackboard during the course of the semester).

Finally, copies of *short current articles* will occasionally be distributed in class. You are encouraged to read these articles and follow the major topics of the course in the news: *The Economist*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post Weekly*, and the *Financial Times* are good sources. This exercise is intended to help spur classroom discussion and debate.

All examinations are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity outlined above.

Missed Exams: Unexcused absences on exam day result in an automatic F. Make-up exams will be given in only the most extraordinary and well-documented circumstances.

Cheating: Zero tolerance policy. Anyone caught cheating automatically fails the assignment and faces academic discipline in accordance with the University's Code of Academic Conduct. It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules and to abide by them.

Required Texts:

Be sure to get these exact editions; older versions will NOT work!

- Kaplan. (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. (2010). *Modern Latin America*. 7th edition. Oxford University Press.
- Reid, Michael. (2007). *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul*. Yale University Press.
- Márquez, Gabriel García. (1991). *The General in his Labyrinth*. Penguin Press.

Topics and Reading Assignments:

Session One 1/14: *Introduction*

Session Two 1/16: *Latin American Economic and Political Development: Part I From Liberalism to Nationalism: The Rise of ISI*

Required Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 12
- Reid, Chapter 2.

Session Three 1/21: *Latin American Economic and Political Development: Part II The Region's Tango with Neoliberalism*

Required Readings:

- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. pp. 36-49
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 13.
- Reid, Chapter 6.

Session Four 1/23: *Latin American Economic and Political Development: Part III The Post-Neoliberal Era*

Required Readings:

- Latin American Special Report: So Near and Yet So Far, 2010. *The Economist*.
- Latin American Special Report: Gini Back in the Bottle, 2012. *The Economist*.

FILM Screening – Garage Olimpo (The Olympic Garage)

- Option A: January 23rd at 8:30PM; location Phillips B152

- Option B: The movie will be made available for 24-hour loan for individual screenings.

Session Five 1/28: *Country Case- Brazil: A Giant Finally Awakened*

Required Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 11.
- Reid, pp. 185-198.
- Roett, Riordan. (2011). Toodle-oo: Brazil Looks Forward with Dilma. *Current History*.

Session Six 1/30: *Country Case- Argentina: From Rags to Riches*

Required Readings:

- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. pp. 254-76.
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 9.
- *The South (El Sur)* by Jorge Luis Borges
- Film: *The Olympic Garage (Garage Olimpo, 1999)*

Session Seven 2/4: *Migration and Development in Latin America*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Professor Marie Price, Department of Geography

Readings:

- Arreola, Daniel. Ed. (2004). *Hispanic Spaces, Latino Places: Community and Cultural Diversity in Contemporary America*. University of Texas Press.
- Yarnall, K. and Price, M. (2010). Migration, Development, and a New Rurality in the Valle Alto. *Bolivia. Journal of Latin American Geography*.

FILM Screening – No

- Option A: February 5th at 7:30PM; Elliott School of International Affairs, Suite 505
- Option B: The movie is streamed on Netflix.

Session Eight 2/6: *The African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Professor Greg Childs, Department of History.

Required Readings:

- Duboit, Laurent and John Garrigus. (2006). *The Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804*. pp. 1-40.
- Reis, João José. (1998). Slave Resistance in Brazil: Bahia 1807-1835. *Luso-Brazilian Review*. 25(1): 111-144.
- McKnight, Kathryn (2009) Elder, Slave, & Soldier. Maroon Voices from the Palinque de Limón. *Afro-Latino Voices: Narratives from the Early Modern Ibero-Atlantic World*. pp. 64-81.

Session Nine 2/11: *Piracy and Intellectual Property Rights in Latin America*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Professor Alex Dent, Anthropology Department

Required Readings:

- *Media Piracy in Emerging Economies*, Social Science Research Council, Introduction & Chapter 5 (Recommended: Chapter 1)
- Dent, Alexander S. (2012). Pirates and Piracy, Broadly Conceived. *Anthropology Quarterly*.

Recommended Readings:

- Dent., Alexander S. (2012). Piracy, Circulatory Legitimacy, and Neoliberal Subjectivity in Brazil. *Cultural Anthropology*.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1:

- **Option A:** Tuesday, February 11th from 4:00-5:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 212
- **Option B:** Thursday, February 13th from 1:00-2:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 112

Session Ten 2/13: *U.S.-Latin American Economic Relations*

Required Readings

- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. pp. 163-170
- Crandall, Russell (2011). The Post-American Hemisphere. Power and Politics in an Autonomous Latin America. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2011.
- Castaneda, Jorge. (2004). NAFTA at 10: A Plus or a Minus? *Current History*. (Feb)
- Weintraub, Sidney. (2004). Scoring Free Trade: A Critique of the Critics. *Ibid*.
- *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* by Pablo Neruda.
Read: Poems XVI-XX and "The Song of Despair."

Session Eleven 2/18: *US-Latin American Political Relations*

Required Readings:

- *Promoting Democracy in the Americas* by Thomas F. Legler, Sharon Frances and Lean and Dexter S. Boniface. Read: Chapter 3, "The OAS's Mixed Record" and Chapter 4, "The United States: Rhetoric and Reality."

Session Twelve 2/20: *Country Case- Cuba: Standing Up to an Empire*

Required Readings:

- Reid, pp. 95-105.
- Perez-Stable, Marifeli (2007). Looking Forward: Democracy in Cuba? In Marifeli Perez-Stable (Ed). *Looking Forward: Comparative Perspective on Cuba's Transition*. Chapter 1.
- Dominguez, Jorge. (2007). Cuba's Civil-Military Relations in Comparative Perspective: The Normalization of Cuba's Civil Society in Post-Transition. *Looking Forward: Chpt 2*.
Background Readings:
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 5.

Session Thirteen 2/25: *Security in the Western Hemisphere*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Professor Michael Danielson, Department of Political Science
- Required Readings:
- Hayes, M.D. (1980). Dimensions of U.S. Security Interests in LA. *Latin America and the U.S. National Interest*: 219-236.
- Cope, J.A. and Mora, F.O. (2009). Hemispheric Security: A New Approach. *Current History*: 65-71.
- González, F.E.. (2009). Mexico's Drug Wars Get Brutal. *Current History*: 72-76.
- Farnsworth, E. (2011). The New Mercantilism: China's Emerging Role in the Americas. *Current History*: 56-61.

Session Fourteen 2/27: *Country Case- The Caribbean Curse?: Small Fish in an American Lake*

Required Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 4: pp. 82-94, 111-120.

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James Robinson. (2006). *Economic Origins of Dictatorships and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2 and 11.
- Miller, Shawn W. (2007). *An Environmental History of Latin America*. Pg 79-87.
- *La United Fruit Co.* by Pablo Neruda

Session Fifteen 3/4: ** MIDTERM EXAM, regular class time**

Session Sixteen 3/6: *Country Case- Venezuela: Drowning in its Own Riches*

Required Readings:

- Reid, CH. 7.
- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. pp. 143-158.
- Lederman, Daniel and William Maloney (2006) *Natural Resources and Development*. CH: 6.
- Pietri, Arturo Uslar. (1936) *To Sow the Oil*.
- Shifter, Michael. (2011). If Hugo Goes. *Foreign Policy*. June 28, 2011

Background Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 8.

Start Reading:

- *The General in his Labyrinth* by Gabriel García Márquez

3/11 and 3/13: SPRING BREAK, no class.

Session Seventeen 3/18: *Latin America's Left Turn: A Pragmatic Pink?*

Readings:

- Casteneda, Jorge (2006). Latin America's Left Turn. *Foreign Affairs*. 85(3).
- Corrales, Javier (2006). The Many Lefts in Latin America. *Foreign Policy*. Nov/Dec
- Burges, Sean. W. (2010). Brazil as a Regional Leader. *Current History*.
- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. Chapter 8.

Continue Reading:

- *The General in his Labyrinth* by Gabriel García Márquez

BREAKOUT SESSION 2:

- **Option A:** Tuesday, March 18th from 4:00-5:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 212
- **Option B:** Thursday, March 20th from 1:00-2:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 112

Session Eighteen 3/20: *Country Case- The Andes: Exiting the Labyrinth?*

Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 7.
- *The General in his Labyrinth* by Gabriel García Márquez. Finish the entire novel.

Session Nineteen 3/25: *Drug Trafficking & Regional Security: Mexico, Central America, & the Andes*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Barnett Koven, Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Politics

Readings:

- Koven, Barnett. The Resurgence of the Shining Path.

- Reyes, Alejandro. Drug Trafficking and the Guerrilla Movement in Colombia. In Bruce M. Bagley and William O. Walker III's *Drug Trafficking in the Americas*.
- Lindau, Juan. *Drug War's Impact on Executive Power, Judicial Reform, and Federalism in Mexico*.

Session Twenty 3/27: ***Environmental Sustainability in the Amazon***

- *Guest Lecturer:* Hannah Stutzman, Associate Director of Programs, *The American Conservation Association*
- Readings
- Nepstad et. al. (2002). Frontier Governance in Amazonia. *Science*. 295: 629-631.
- Rodrigues et. al. (2009). Boom and Bust Development Patterns Across the Amazonian Deforestation Frontier. *Science*. 324: 1435-1437.
- Lewis et. al. (2011). The 2010 Amazon Drought. *Science*. 331: 554.
- Britaldo et. al. (2006). Modeling Conservation in Amazon Basin. *Nature*. 440: 520-523.
- Review the website for a basic background on the Amazonian rainforest:
<http://rainforests.mongabay.com/amazon/>

Session Twenty-one 4/1: ***Promoting Sustainable Development in Latin America***

- ****POLICY BRIEF 1 DUE****
- Required Readings:
- Harvard Business School Case Study-
Starbucks Corporation: Building a Sustainable Supply Chain

Session Twenty-two 4/3: ***Central America: Development and Democratic Governance***

- *Guest Lecturer:* Dr. Osmel Enrique Manzano, Inter-American Development Bank
- Required Readings:
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 4: pp. 94-111.
- Izquierdo, Alejandro and Ernesto Talvi, 2011, One Region, Two Speed?: *Challenges of the New Global Economic Order for Latin America and the Caribbean*, Inter-American Development Bank. CH. I and II, CH III: pp 32-33, 41-42
- Recommended Readings:
- Agosin, Manuel, Eduardo Fernandez-Arias y Fidel Jaramillo, *Growing Pains: Binding Constraints to Productive Investment in Latin America*, Inter-American Development Bank. CH 5 and 7
- Stein, Ernesto, Mariano Tommasi, Koldo Echebarria, Eduardo Lora and Mark Payne, 2006, *The Politics of Policies*, Inter-American Development Bank. Box 7.2 (p 179) and CH8 pp. 196-199
- Shifter, Michael. (2011). Central America's Security Predicament. *Current History*.

Session Twenty-three 4/8: ***Country Case- Chile: A Model Neoliberal Citizen***

- Required Readings:
- Reid, pp. 179-185.
- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. pp. 190-232.
- Film: *No* (2013). Available on Netflix.
- Background Readings:
- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 10.

4/10 – No class; it will instead be held at the usual class time on Tuesday, 4/29

Session Twenty-four 4/15: *Country Case- Mexico: A Tale of Two Nations*

Required Readings:

- Skidmore, Smith, & Green. CH. 3.
- Reid, pp. 198-211.

Session Twenty-five 4/17: *Globalization and Development*

- ****POLICY BRIEF 2 DUE****

Required Readings:

- Harvard Business School Case Study- *Mexico: Crisis and Competitiveness*

BREAKOUT SESSION 3:

- **Option A:** Tuesday, April 15th from 4:00-5:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 212
- **Option B:** Thursday, April 17th from 1:00-2:00PM; 1957 E St. Room 112

Session Twenty-six 4/22: *How the U.S. Engages in Latin America: A US Policy Perspective*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Mathew Mohlenkamp, Director of Western Hemisphere Affairs, US Department of the Treasury

Required Readings:

- *Rethinking Reforms* (2013). Inter-American Development Bank.
- Rohter, Larry. (2012). *Brazil on the Rise*. Chapter 6, Industrial Power, Agricultural Superpower.
- Sharma, Ruchir (2012). Bearish on Brazil. *Foreign Affairs*.
- *Pact for Mexico* (2013). Americas Society/Council of the Americas.

Background Readings:

- Blustein, Paul. *And the Money Kept Rolling In (and Out) Wall Street, the IMF, and the Bankrupting of Argentina*.

FILM Screening – Nueve Reinas (Nine Queens)

- Option A: April 24th at 8:30PM; Phillips B152
- Option B: The movie is streamed on Netflix.

Session Twenty-seven 4/24: *China and Latin America: A US Policy Perspective*

- *Guest Lecturer:* Daniel Erickson, Senior Advisor Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. State Department

Required Readings:

- *China Engages Latin America: Tracing the Trajectory*. Chapters 1, 3, and 7.

Session Twenty-eight 4/29: *Latin America's Global Outperformers: Myth or Reality?*

[MAKE-UP CLASS**]**

Required Readings:

- Kaplan, Stephen (2013). *Globalization and Austerity Politics in Latin America*. Chapter 1.
- *The Insufferable Gaucho* by Robert Bolaño (New Yorker, October 2007).

Background Materials:

- Film: *Nine Queens* (Nueve Reinas, 2000). Available on Netflix.

FINAL EXAM: The date, time, and location will be announced by the registrar's office.