COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA:
DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Political Science 134AA
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Office Hours: Wed 3-5, SSB 364

Fall 2014/CICC 101 Tu-Thu 2:00-3:20

This course will explore patterns and processes of democratization in contemporary Latin America. Specific topics will include: cycles of democratic change, electoral institutions and behavior, economic and social 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:


Selected readings on website.

Lecture outlines can be found under a POLI 134aa directory on the instructor’s website at the following address: <http://pages.ucsd.edu/~phsmith>

Exams, assignments, and grading:

1. There will be a mid-term examination on **Thursday, November 20** (33 percent of course grade)

2. All students must submit a 10-15 page analytical paper by 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 11** (67 percent of final grade).
Oct 02: Introduction to Course
Country Brief: Chile (PHS)

Smith, Democracy, Introduction

Modern Latin America, chs. 1, 10

Oct 07: Video: “Battle of Chile”

Oct 09: Cycles and Transitions

Smith, Democracy, chs. 1-2, 4

Oct 14: Country Brief: Mexico (Melissa Flaco)

Modern Latin America, chs. 3, 5 (Mexico, Cuba)

Beatriz Magaloni, “The Demise of Mexico’s One-Party Regime”

Oct 16: Changing Roles of the Military

Smith, Democracy, ch. 3

Oct 21: Toppling Military Rule

Video: “No”

Oct 23: Reshaping Political Institutions: Presidentialism and Representation

Smith, Democracy, chs. 5-6

Oct 28:

Video: “Garden of the Forking Paths” [Argentina]
Oct 30: The Role of Political Institutions
Country Brief: Argentina (Sebastian Saiegh)

*Modern Latin America*, chs. 6, 9 (Andes, Argentina)

Nov 04: Economic Policies and Performance
Country Brief: Brazil (TBA)

Smith, *Democracy*, ch. 8

*Modern Latin America*, chs. 11, 12 (Brazil + economic strategies)

Nov 06: Liberal and Illiberal Democracy
Country Brief: El Salvador (TBA)

Smith, *Democracy*, chs. 9-11

*Modern Latin America*, ch. 4 (Central America)

Nov 11: The Politics of Gender
Country Brief: Colombia (TBA)

*Modern Latin America*, ch. 7 (Colombia)

Mala Htun, “Women and Democracy”

Nov 13: Video: “In Women’s Hands”

Nov 18: The Rise of the New Left

Smith, *Democracy*, chs. 7, 12

Nov 20: MID-TERM EXAM

Nov 25: Country Brief: Venezuela

*Modern Latin America*, ch. 8 (Venezuela)
Dec 02: What Now? Democracy and U.S.-Latin American Relations

Dec 09: Political Change in Retrospect

Modern Latin America, ch.13 (political transformation)
Smith, Democracy, Epilogue

Dec 11: PAPER DUE