Politics in the Southern Cone of Latin America
Poli 134I
Winter 2012
Thursdays, 5:00-7:50 P.M.
PCYNH 109
polisci2.ucsd.edu/fcantu/poli134i

Francisco Cantú (fcantu@ucsd.edu)
Office Hours: Thursdays 8:00-9:00 P.M. (Cafe Roma).

TA: Adeline Lo (aylo@ucsd.edu)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 A.M. (SSB 341).

Description: This course explores some of the key debates in comparative politics, focusing on the particular cases of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile (the ABC). The class will analyze the countries of interest across three different perspectives: political regimes, political institutions, and political economy. By the end of the quarter, students should be able to apply the concepts reviewed over the course in analyzing events that are occurring in other regions of the world. This course assumes a minimum background in comparative politics.

Format: We will meet once a week for the duration of the quarter. Each meeting is roughly divided into two parts. The first half of each session will be a lecture that provides some historical or analytical background on the topic. The second half of the class will offer further exploration and a different approach to the topic of the day through film clips or guest speakers. Students are expected to come to each class having read all the required material. Topics presented in class are complemented with assigned readings from this syllabus, so the class lecture should not be taken as a substitute for the readings.

Readiness quizzes: From the third week of class until the end of the course, the instructor will post a weekly quiz on the course website. Each quiz includes three questions about the assigned material for that week. Students must answer four out of eight quizzes. Every answer should be no longer than a paragraph. This assignment will help students work on their reading comprehension skills, and it will provide feedback on questions and problems related to the assigned material.

To be counted as part of the student’s final grade, each quiz will be submitted on TED no later than twenty-four hours before lecture (i.e., 5 P.M. on Wednesday).
Analytical paper:
Students will submit a 1000-word paper discussing the assigned readings for any given week. The paper should not be a summary of the readings but should be an analytical response to the authors’ approach to the topic. This paper may be a comparison of several authors’ arguments, a critique of one argument based on other readings, or a suggestion of a different empirical or analytical approach to the topic.

A printed version of the paper has to be submitted at the beginning of the lecture for your chosen topic. A student cannot submit both a paper and a quiz on the same week.

Final exam: There will be an open-book final exam on March 22 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:59 P.M. The exam will cover the entire course, and it requires that you have read and understood the material. This exam does not evaluate students’ capacity to recall specific information from the readings. Rather, the exam assesses students’ ability to apply the concepts reviewed throughout the course. Students are permitted to use course notes, articles, and textbooks during the examination. The questions of the exam will be based on the assigned readings, lectures, and additional material that I will post on the website two weeks before the final exam (March 8).

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Deadlines and extensions: The course is designed to give every student almost entire discretion over the schedule for the submission of the assignments. Students need to submit an assignment (i.e., the quizzes and the paper) in five out of ten weeks, so planning ahead is encouraged. Unless there are very pressing (and fully documented) situations, extensions are not allowed.

Readings: The class will use the following required textbook:

We will use this book for several lectures, and it may be useful as a future reference for other courses. The rest of the readings are available online on e-reserves. Please let me know if you have any economic restriction that may prevent you from obtaining the course material.

The reading load is not burdensome (about 70-80 pages a week), but the material may prove challenging. You need to invest ample time to understand the material and to bring questions about the readings to class. Items under “Read” constitute required reading. If possible, read them in the order indicated. In addition, readings under “Recommended” will help you learn more about a particular topic in the future.

**Academic Integrity:** There will be a zero tolerance policy for the violation of the UCSD’s Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. In particular, plagiarism in any of the required activities for this course will be penalized in the terms cited by the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

## I. Overview

1. **Logistics and Introduction of the Course (January 13)**
   
   No reading assigned.

2. **The ABC (January 19)**
   
   Read:
   

## II. Political Regimes

3. **Transitions from Democracy (January 26)**
   
   Read:
   


Recommended:


4. Transitions to Democracy (January 26)

Read:


Recommended:


5. A model for transitions (February 2)

Read:


Recommended:

III. Political Institutions

6. Presidents and legislators (February 9)

Read:


Recommended:


7. Political parties (February 16)

Read:


**Recommended:**


**8. Elections (February 23)**

**Read:**


**Recommended:**


**IV. Political Economy**

**9. Strategies for development (March 1)**


Recommended:


10. Politics and Policies (March 8)

Read:


Recommended:

