

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
James Madison College
MC 324c - Spring 2007

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REGIONAL POLITICS, COOPERATION AND CONFLICT
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Latin American and Caribbean countries have made enormous strides toward democratic rule and economic stability in the last twenty years. Almost all have elected civilian governments. Nevertheless, the region's severe challenges have generated deep public dissatisfaction with the *status quo*. Slow economic growth, insufficient job creation, profound inequalities, poor social, health and education services, deteriorating infrastructure, and ineffective police and legal systems together are provoking growing unease and unrest, thereby, creating doubts about the future of democracy in the region.

MC 324c focuses on the current process of political, economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). This course examines the historical evolution and the transformation characteristics in the region. The analyses and studies included in this syllabus identify common patterns experienced by the region as a whole and pinpoint development processes of individual countries. MC 324c addresses the outcomes of economic liberalization reforms and the political and social contexts, forces, and conflicts emerging from these reforms. In addition, the course explores the multifaceted relationship between the United States and the individual countries in the region.

MC 324c is designed to provide an up-to-date, balanced and objective understanding of public policy issues in LAC. Students taking MC 324c will be required to develop detailed research papers addressing the current challenges of strengthening democracy in the region.

ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS

This class meets **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00-6:20 p.m.** Attentive reading of the course bibliography is essential. Timely completion of the reading assignments will enable you to reflect systematically upon the issues presented and contribute to class discussions and learning. Student participation--careful thinking about the material read, and your written and oral exchange of views among colleagues and the professor--will be factored into the grading process.

The required work and structure of grading for MC 324c consists of:

Midterm exam	25 percent
Country review	20 percent
Research paper	35 percent
Class participation	10 percent
Oral presentation	10 percent

All required work must be completed to pass this course. You will be evaluated on: 1) the quality of your responses to exam questions; 2) your grasp of the concepts and issues presented in the lectures and readings; and 3) your capacity to develop and present your own analysis of the concepts and issues.

The country review and research paper should constitute a major focus of your course work. Your research will provide you with a necessary point of reference from which to study and evaluate the questions and analyses presented in the lectures and the course bibliography. Your research paper should be 10 pages in length (double-spaced, typed, minimum 15 titles in the reference list). You should consult with the professor about your choice of a research topic early in the semester. The requirements of MC 324c fit with this being a Tier 2 writing course. You have an option to revise your research paper if you submit a draft of the research paper by April 12.

Your country review should provide a synthesis of the historical evolution of one country in LAC. It should include detailed statistical and descriptive information about the processes of political, economic and social development. It also should contain a thoughtful analysis of the development experience of this country from the 1970s to the present. Your country review should be 10 pages in length (double-spaced, typed, minimum 15 titles in the reference list).

Correct bibliographic and end or footnote citations are expected. You may choose among notational styles from the following sources (available in the JMC Library and MSU Main Library): *The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors and Publishers*. 14th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1993; Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 4th Edition. New York: The Modern Library Association of America, 1995; Turabian, Kate. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. 6th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

MC 324c will be conducted according to the College's policies on academic honesty/dishonesty. Students should refer to the section "Expectations and Standards" of the *James Madison College Student Handbook* for clarification.

HONORS WORK

Students enrolled in MC 324c may receive honors credit for the course. To receive honors credit, you must participate in the **honors seminar and write a second research paper** (double-spaced, typed, 10 pages in length, minimum 15 titles in the reference list) in consultation with the professor. Presentation of your research work at the **4th Annual CLACS Undergraduate**

Conference at Michigan State University, March 28-30, 2007, or membership in the publishing committee of the **MC 324c Latin America and the Caribbean blog** would qualify for honors credit in MC324c as well.

READINGS

Three books and one course packet are required for MC 324c. They are available for purchase at the Student Book Store, 411-427 E. Grand River, East Lansing; telephone (517) 351-4210:

Santiso, Javier, *Latin America 's Political Economy of the Possible: Beyond Good Revolutionaries and Free Marketeers*.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2006;

Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. *Modern Latin America*. 6th Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005;

McCoy, Jennifer L. and David J. Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.

SBS Course packet (CP): MC324c - Zoninsein

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

I. INTRODUCTION

Jan. 9 **Program, course organization and requirements;**
Why Latin America?

Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 1, pp. 1-12.

Jan. 11 Castañeda, Jorge G. "Latin America's Left Turn," *Foreign Affairs*, May-June 2006: 28-43. (CP)

Whither Latin America?

Jan. 16 *The Economist*, "Latin America: It's Democracy, Stupid," December 9th, 2006, pp. 17-18 and 45-46. (CP)

Valenzuela, Arturo, "Putting Latin America Back on the Map," *Finance & Development*, December 2005, pp. 16-17. (CP)

The Economist, "The Battle for Latin America's Soul," May 20th, 2006, p.11.
(CP)

The Economist, "Who Leads Latin America?" September 30th, 2006, pp. 11, 29-31, 47-48. (CP)

Fraga, Arminio, "A Fork in the Road: Latin America Faces a Choice between Populism and Deeper Reform," *Finance & Development*, December 2005, pp. 14-15. (CP)

Jan. 18

Course organization:

Choice of a country for research and presentation in class;

Design of the MC 324c Latin America and the Caribbean blog;

Participation at the 4th Annual CLACS Undergraduate Conference at Michigan State University, March 28-30, 2007. (This will be a special opportunity for JMC students to gain experience presenting papers at a conference)

II. LATIN AMERICA'S POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE POSSIBLE

1. Latin America's Development Paradigms

Jan. 23, 25

Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, chs. 1 and 2, and Epilogue: pp. 13-67, 440-455.

Jan. 30

Santiso, *Latin America's Political Economy of the Possible*, Introduction and chs. 1 and 2: 1-51.

2. Structural Adjustment in Latin America

Feb. 1

Santiso, *Latin America's Political Economy of the Possible*, ch. 3: 53-95.

Feb. 6

Santiso, *Latin America's Political Economy of the Possible*, chs. 4, 5 and 6: 97-164.

Feb. 8

Santiso, *Latin America's Political Economy of the Possible*, chs. 7 and 8, and Conclusion: 165-224.

Feb. 13 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Feb. 15 **COUNTRY REVIEWS DUE**

Feb. 15 **THEMES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MC 324c LATIN AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN BLOG AND DATES FOR
THEIR PUBLICATION**

Feb. 20 **WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE COUNTRY REVIEWS DUE**

III. DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY: CASE STUDIES

1. Chile

Feb. 20 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 4, pp. 109-138.

2. Brazil

Feb. 22 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 5: 139-180.

3. Mexico

Feb. 27 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 8: 254-295.

4. Argentina

Mar.1 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 3: 69-108.

5. Peru

Mar. 13 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 6: 181-220.

6. Central America

Mar. 15 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 10: 316-354.

7. **Cuba**

Mar. 20 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 10: 259-287.

8. **The Caribbean**

Mar. 22 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 10: 328-355.

9. **Colombia**

Mar. 27 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 7: 221-253.

Mar.28-30 **4th Annual CLACS Undergraduate Conference at Michigan State University**

10, **Venezuela**

Mar. 29 McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, Introduction and ch. 1: 1-32.

Apr. 3 McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, chs. 2-4: 33-92.

Apr. 5 McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, chs. 5-8: 93- 180.

Apr. 10 McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, chs. 9-10: 181-230.

Apr. 12 McCoy and Myers, *The Unraveling of Representative Democracy in Venezuela*, chs. 11-12: 231-296.

IV. LATIN AMERICA AND THE UNITED STATES

1. **Historical background**

Apr. 17 Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, ch. 12: 396-439.

2. The Uni-multipolar Transition

Apr. 19, 24 Huntington, Samuel. "The Lonely Superpower," *Foreign Affairs*,
March/April 1999: 35-49. (CP)

Hakim, Peter, "Is Washington Losing Latin America?" *Foreign Affairs*,
January/February 2006: 39-65. (CP)

Apr. 26 **3. Conclusion: US Policy Priorities Regarding Latin America and the
Caribbean**

Apr. 26 **EVALUATION OF THE BLOG**

May 1 **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**