

**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:

Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith, and James N. Green, *Modern Latin America*, 8th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014)

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).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **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**