

POLI 134D Topics/Latin American Politics  
Fall 2019

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00AM-9:50AM  
Warren Lecture Hall, Room 2207

## Politics, Policies, and Economic Prosperity in Latin America

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Office Hours: Monday 11:00AM-1:00PM, office SSB #370

### Course Description

This course focuses on the political economy of Latin America. We will examine the development policies followed by the countries in the region. Following a review of simple economic models of growth, we will analyze the track record of Latin American economies. Finally, we will discuss how public policies and political institutions affect economic prosperity.

### Format

The class will meet three times per week for the duration of the quarter. Each meeting will be devoted to a new theme/idea. Every topic presented in class is paired with one **required** reading. The lectures will review the concepts discussed in these readings, but should be taken neither as a *duplication* nor as a substitute for them. In other words, you should not assume that because you came to class, you can skip the readings, and/or that because you made the readings you may not attend the lectures.

### Assignments

Each week students are expected to read the materials. The formal examinations consist of a mid-term exam in week five and a final exam at the end of the term. The midterm exam accounts for 35% of the final grade and the final exam accounts for 50% of the final grade. Discussion and general class participation accounts for the remaining 15%. Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under **very pressing circumstances**, they will be discouraged.

## Course Policies

*Academic Integrity.* Students in this course are expected to comply with UCSD's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. In particular, plagiarism is considered a dishonest practice and a serious academic offense. Hence, there will be a zero tolerance policy with respect to these practices: any student violating the obligation of academic integrity during the term will automatically fail the class. Copies of the current version of the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, also commonly referred to as the Academic Dishonesty Policy, may be found on the Academic Senate webpage: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/AcademicIntegrity/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

*Disabilities.* If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both me and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify the OSD, call (858) 534-4382 to schedule an appointment.

## Course Materials

Readings for weeks 1-3 are drawn from the following book (available for purchase):

Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press (hereafter: Easterly).

Additional readings come from articles available online through the UCSD Library System (marked in this syllabus by \*). Finally, some others are drawn from book chapters and non-electronic journals. These readings (marked by \*\*) can be downloaded from the course's **Ted** webpage.

## Course Outline and Readings

*Week 0 (September 27)*

Introduction

*Week 1 (September 30 - October 4)*

September 30: The Quest for Prosperity

October 2: Mechanics of Growth I (Easterly, ch. 2)

October 4: Mechanics of Growth II (Easterly, ch. 3)

*Week 2 (October 7 - October 11)*

- October 7: Increasing Returns (Easterly, ch.8)
- October 9: Technological Change (Easterly, ch. 9)
- October 11: Contextual Factors (Easterly, ch.10)

*Week 3 (October 14 - October 18)*

- October 14: Politics, Policies and the Economy
- \* Krueger, Ann O. 1990. "Government Failures in Development," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol 4, 3: 9-23.
- October 16: Bad Governments (Easterly, ch. 11)
- October 18: Predatory Governments (Easterly, ch. 12)

*Week 4 (October 21 - October 25)*

- October 21: Latin America's track record
- \*\* Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2013. *Three decades of uneven and unstable growth*. Santiago, Chile: United Nations.
- October 23: Populism
- \*\* Dornbusch, Rudiger and Sebastian Edwards. 1991. "The Macroeconomics of Populism," in Dornbusch and Edwards (Eds.) *The Macroeconomics of Populism in Latin America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, ch. 1.
- October 25: The Washington Consensus
- \*\* Birdsall, Nancy, Augusto de la Torre and Felipe Valencia Caicedo. 2011. "The Washington Consensus: Assessing a 'Damaged Brand'," in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 4.

*Week 5 (October 28 - November 1)*

- October 28: Argentina's economic implosion
- Documentary – The empty ATM
- October 30: Review Session
- November 1: Midterm Exam**

*Week 6 (November 4 - November 8)*

November 4: The “Pink Tide”

- \* Panizza, Francisco. 2005. “Unarmed Utopia Revisited: The Resurgence of Left-of-Centre Politics in Latin America,” *Political Studies*. Vol. 53: 716-734.

November 6: Economic Policies I

- \* Flores-Macías, Gustavo. 2010. “Explaining Leftist Governments Economic Policies in Latin America,” in *Comparative Politics*: 413-433.

November 8: Economic Policies II

- \*\* Kaufman, Robert R. 2011. “The Political Left, the Export Boom, and the Populist Temptation,” in Levitsky and Roberts (Eds.). *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, Ch. 4.

*Week 7 (November 13 - November 15)*

November 11: NO CLASS - VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

November 13: The Great Recession

- \* Ocampo, Jose Antonio. 2009. “Latin America and the global financial crisis,” *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 33: 703-724.

November 15: A Mandate to Grow

- \* Powell, Andrew (Coord.) 2018. *A Mandate to Grow*. Washington, D.C.: IDB, Ch. 2.

*Week 8 (November 18 - November 22)*

November 18: Sustaining Prosperity

- \* Levy, Santiago and Norbert Schady. 2013. “Latin America’s Social Policy Challenge: Education, Social Insurance, Redistribution,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 27: 193-218.

November 20: Informal Economy

- \* Tokman, Victor E. 2011. “Employment: The Dominance of the Informal Economy,” in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 30.

November 22: Argentina, once again

\*\* “Argentina: a century of decline,” *The Economist*, February 15, 2014.

*Week 9 (November 25 - November 29)*

November 25: Rethinking Reforms

\*\* Rodrik, Dani. 2002. “After Neoliberalism, What?,” paper presented at the Alternatives to Neoliberalism Conference, May 23-24, 2002.

November 27: Policymaking I

\* Stiglitz, Joseph. 1998. “The Private Uses of Public Interests: Incentives and Institutions,” in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 12, No. 2: 3-22.

November 29: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

*Week 10 (December 2 - December 6)*

December 2: Policymaking II

\*\* Ardanaz, Martín, Carlos Scartascini and Mariano Tommasi. 2011. “Political Institutions, Policymaking, and Economic Policy in Latin America,” in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 3

December 4: Institutions

\*\* Kingstone, Peter. 2011. *The Political Economy of Latin America*, Ch. 5.

December 6: Final Overview

***Final Exam: Wednesday December 11 - 08:00AM - 10:59AM***