

## INTA 2241. INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

FALL 2024

Instructor: Dr. Alberto Fuentes ([alberto.fuentes@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:alberto.fuentes@inta.gatech.edu))

MW 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm

Habersham 136

**This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

### Description

This course introduces students to Latin American politics and development. It is divided into two parts. After addressing socio-economic conditions in Latin America during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the first part traces the varied political regimes that prevailed in the region between 1900 and 2000. These include oligarchic, populist, revolutionary, bureaucratic authoritarian and democratic regimes. The second part reviews socio-economic conditions and politics in the 2000s. It addresses the Pink Tide, the Conservative response, current regimes from the left and right, non-democracies and democratic backsliding. Lectures, discussion and in-class activities will allow students to explore these subjects from varied perspectives and encourage first-hand engagement with the material. This introductory course will prepare students to better understand and evaluate Latin America's political and socio-economic achievements and failures. Students will also be ready for more advanced courses on Latin American politics and government.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Assignment	Percentage of Overall Mark
Attendance and Participation	10%
Worksheets (x10)	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Presentation	25%
Final Exam	30%

## Description of Graded Components

- **Attendance and Participation.** You are required to attend class and participate in discussions and other activities. You will be graded on both the quantity and quality of your contributions. Attendance and participation will account for 10% of your final grade.
- **Worksheets.** There will be ten worksheets throughout the course. They will be completed during class time. Each is worth 1% of your final grade. Worksheets assess your understanding of the reading and lecture material. You can expect worksheets to have between 3-5 questions.
- **Midterm Exam.** The midterm exam is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9. It will cover all material from Part 1 of the course, and accounts for 25% of your final grade.
- **Final Presentation.** At the end of the semester, students will deliver an in-class presentation addressing the material covered during Part 2 of the course. The presentation will account for 25% of your grade. Further instructions will be provided two weeks before the presentation is due.
- **Final Exam.** The final exam will take place on Friday, Dec 6 from 2:40 PM - 5:30 PM. It will cover all the material addressed throughout this course. It accounts for 30% of your final grade.

## Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	65-69%
F	0-64%

## Policy for Late Assignments

Late assignments are strongly discouraged, except in the event of an illness or emergency (documentation will be requested). Any major scheduling conflicts – including those that arise due to participation in “approved Institute activities” – should be discussed with the professor at least two weeks before the assignment due date. For assignments turned in 24 hours late or less, the penalty will be a deduction of 20% off the assignment grade. No assignments turned in over 24 hours late will be accepted.

## Course Materials

- **Course Readings.** Copies of all assigned book chapters and articles will be made available electronically on Canvas.
- **Course Website.** I will be using the Course’s Canvas Page quite extensively throughout the semester. On the Canvas page, you should be able to access important information about the course including but not limited to the most updated version of the syllabus, course announcements, and all required material. I will also use the Canvas page to provide feedback on your assignments, and record grades. Please make sure that you check the Canvas system regularly so you do not miss out on important course information.

### **Feedback and contact with the faculty**

- **Virtual Office Hours.** I am available to meet with you during virtual office hours to answer any questions you may have or to discuss any aspect of the course. If you would like to meet, please send me an email and I will make the necessary arrangements using BlueJeans.
- **Email Policy.** Email is the best way to contact me outside of class. However, please note that I will often be unable to respond to email inquiries outside of regular working hours, so please keep this in mind when anticipating response times. To ensure that I do not accidentally overlook your email, it would be helpful if you could include the course number in the subject line “i.e. INTA 2241”.

### **“Fully online” class sessions**

Throughout the semester, some classes will be conducted fully online. For those classes, I will make pre-recorded lectures available on Canvas.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. According to the Georgia Tech Student Affairs Policy, “Plagiarism” is the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts of passages of his or her writings, or language or ideas of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind. It involves the deliberate use of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

**Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities.** If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (often referred to as ADAPTS) at (404)89-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. If you would like to discuss your learning needs, please email me as soon as possible to set up a time to do so.

### **Student-Faculty Expectations**

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, while in this class.

## DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE

Week		Topic	Readings
<b>PART I. HISTORY: THE XX CENTURY</b>			
Week 1 August 19 and 21	M	Introduction	
	W	Economy and Society: The Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Luis, Bértola, and Antonio Ocampo. <i>The economic development of Latin America since independence</i> . OUP Oxford, 2012. Read p. 81-98 in Chapter 3, rest of chapter optional.
Week 2 August 26 and 28	M	Economy and Society: The Mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century Boom	Luis, Bértola, and Antonio Ocampo. <i>The economic development of Latin America since independence</i> . OUP Oxford, 2012. Read p. 138-155 in Chapter 4, rest of chapter optional.
	W	Economy and Society: The Late-20 <sup>th</sup> Century	Luis, Bértola, and Antonio Ocampo. <i>The economic development of Latin America since independence</i> . OUP Oxford, 2012. Read p. 198-199 and 213-219 in Chapter 5, rest of chapter optional.
Week 3 September 2 and 4	M	INSTITUTE HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
	W	Oligarchic regimes I: Oligarchic and Cooptative Democracies	Reid, M. <i>Forgotten Continent</i> . Yale University Press, New Haven, 2007. Read p. 52-72 in Chapter 3.
Week 4 September 9 and 11	M	Oligarchic regimes II: Traditional dictatorships	Reid, M. <i>Forgotten Continent</i> . Yale University Press, New Haven, 2007. Read p. 69-75 in Chapter 3.  Creelman, J. “President Diaz, Hero of the Americas,” in <i>The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i> (ed. Joseph and Henderson). Duke University Press:2001
	W	FACULTY TRAVEL – NO CLASS	
Week 5 September 16 and 18	M	Populism I: Argentina	Wolfenden, K. “Perón and the People: Democracy and Authoritarianism in Juan Perón's Argentina.” <i>Inquiries Journal/Student Pulse</i> , 5(02), 2013
	W	Populism II: Mexico and Brazil	Reid, M. <i>Forgotten Continent</i> . Yale University Press, New Haven, 2007. Review p. 74-75 in Chapter 3.  Hamilton, N. <i>The Limits of State Autonomy</i> . Princeton University Press: 1982. Read Chapter 7.

Week 6 September 23 and 25	M	Revolutionary Regimes	Matthews, H. "Cuban Rebel is visited in hideout." <i>The New York Times</i> , February 24, 1957.  Rai, L. "Peaceful transition to socialism: the prospect of Chile". <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , 7(46/47), 1972.
	W	Revolutionary movements and civil war	Jonas, S. "Guatemala: Acts of Genocide and Scorched-earth Counterinsurgency War," in eds. Totten, S. and W. Parsons <i>Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts</i> , Taylor and Francis, 2012.  Wood, E.J. <i>Agrarian social relations and democratization: The negotiated resolution of the civil war in El Salvador</i> . Unpublished Dissertation, 1995. Read the Introduction.
Week 7 September 30 and October 1	M	Bureaucratic Authoritarianism	Erickson, K. "Reviewed Work(s): Modernization and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism. By Guillermo O'Donnell." <i>The Hispanic American Historical Review</i> , 55(3), August 1975.  Goldman, F. "Children of the Dirty War." <i>The New Yorker</i> , March 19, 2012.
	W	Democratization I	Hagopian, Frances, and Scott P. Mainwaring, eds. <i>The third wave of democratization in Latin America: advances and setbacks</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2005. Read Introduction and Chapter 1.
Week 8 October 7 and 9	M	Democratization II	*Edmonds-Poli, E. and David Shirk. <i>Contemporary Mexican Politics</i> . Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012. Read pp. 1 – 21 in Chapter 4.  Shirk, D. "Mexico's Victory: Vicente Fox and the Rise of the PAN," <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 11(4), 2000: 25-32.
	W	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 October 16 and 22	M	INSTITUE HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
	W	FACULTY TRAVEL – NO CLASS	

PART II. CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA			
Week 10 October 21 and 23	M	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Socio-Economy I	Luis, Bértola, and Antonio Ocampo. <i>The economic development of Latin America since independence</i> . OUP Oxford, 2012. Read Chapter 6,
	W	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Socio-Economy II	TBD
Week 11 October 28 and 30	M	The Pink Tide of the 2000s	Levitsky, S. and Kenneth Roberts. <i>The Resurgence of the Latin American Left</i> . Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011. (read Introduction)
	W	The Conservative Response of the 2010s	Anderson, J. “Jair Bolsonaro’s Southern Strategy,” <i>The New Yorker</i> , March 25, 2019.
Week 12 November 4 and 6	M	Non-democracies and Democratic Backsliding	Dada, C. “A dictatorship is born.” <i>El Pais</i> , February 9, 2024.
	W	Current regimes from the left: Mexico	“Mexico under AMLO,” <i>Strategic Comments</i> , 24(6), 2018: iii-iv.  Sheridan, M. “AMLO is Mexico’s strongest president in decades. Some say he’s too strong,” <i>The Washington Post</i> , November 29, 2019.
Week 13 November 11 and 13	M	Current regimes from the left: Colombia and Chile	Bueno, P. “Gustavo Petro: Change is more difficult than we thought.” <i>El Pais</i> , May 3, 2023.  Martinez and Montes. “Gabriel Boric, president of Chile: ‘The left in Latin America has had a tendency not to take responsibility for its own mistakes’.” <i>El Pais</i> , March 12, 2024.
	W	Current regimes from the right: Argentina	Beattie, A. “Argentina: The superpower that never was.” <i>Financial Times</i> , May 22, 2009.  Centenera, M. “Javier Milei, the president of a thousand faces.” <i>El Pais</i> , December 10, 2023.  Centenera, M. “Freedom (and poverty) in Argentina: Milei’s 100 frenetic days in power and an unprecedented economic experiment.” <i>El Pais</i> , March 19, 2024.
Week 15 November 18 and 20	M	Final Presentations	
	W	Final Presentations	
Week 16 November 25 and 27	M	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	

	W	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	
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