Course Title:
Politics of Latin America

Course Number:
PSC 5683-301

Course Description:
This course is designed as an exploration of Latin America and its politics to students who may have little exposure to the region. Rather than examine the particular features of a subset of countries, we will instead use a broad-based thematic approach. We will focus on an interwoven matrix of macrolevel historical, political, social and economic trends that have come to define the region. We will, of course, use specific examples from a variety of Latin American countries to illustrate how these thematic components play out in various national settings.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: February 5-11, 2012
Location: Hangar 2, Room 102, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
Hours: Sun 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Mon - Fri 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm; Sat 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 7, 2012

Site Director:
Mary Keller. Phone: 808-449-6364 (DSN & Commercial); Fax: 808-422-5509; E-mail: aphickam@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Jeffrey J. Ryan, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Political Science
Old Main 428
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Telephone Number: (479) 575-3356
Fax Number: (479) 575-6432
E-mail Address: Jeffrey.J.Ryan-1@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-222-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

2. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](http://learn.ou.edu); enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce the student to the study of politics in contemporary Latin America.
2. To explore continuities and changes across the broad arc of Latin America history from Precolmbian times to the present.
3. To understand the dynamics of regime consolidation and failure across the region’s predominant governing arrangements (e.g., authoritarian, corporatist, democratic and populist).
4. To discuss some of the pressing issues confronting contemporary democracies in Latin America (e.g., party system instability, gender and ethnopolitics, civil society, crime/insecurity, etc.).
5. To look at the past dynamics and possible future trajectories of the inter-American system.

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

Course grades will be based on two written assignments (pre-class and post-class), an in class presentation and overall class participation, according to the following weighting scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Grade Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Throughout the course</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-class Assignment</td>
<td>No later than second day of class</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Seminar Assignment</td>
<td>2 weeks after last day of class</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pre-Class Assignment: (30%)**

As is customary in many AP courses, students will be expected to complete a substantial amount of reading as well as a written assignment prior to the onset of classes. You are strongly encouraged to begin working on this course several weeks before our first meeting, since as you know better than most, work schedules can fluctuate wildly and unpredictably. The pre-class assignment is due no later than the beginning of the second day of classes. (Important: Unless the student submits this assignment at least 72 hours before the first class period, it is unlikely that the instructor will be able to provide feedback until after the course has ended.) Work submitted after the deadline may be progressively downgraded.

Specifics regarding the pre-class reading and writing assignments will be available at the D2L site for this course approximately one month before the first class meeting. As noted above, if you need help accessing the D2L system, contact your Site Manager promptly, since D2L will be the chief portal through which all course-related activity will pass. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain and complete the assignment by the second day of classes. The completed pre-class assignment should be sent to the D2L drop-box using the file name protocol: LASTNAME-HI-1 (i.e., RYAN-HI-1.docx).

**Class Presentation: (15%)**

On the last day of class, everyone will be required to give a presentation. The theme for the presentation is ‘good news’ about/from Latin America. I am purposefully defining that theme in the broadest possible manner to give you as much latitude as possible. The overarching objective of this segment is to focus attention on some of the many examples of Latin Americans, individually or collectively, working to bring about positive change to their societies, successful or not, ongoing or in the past, from any sovereign country in the hemisphere except the US and Canada. And it is entirely up to you to define ‘positive change.’ Why ‘good news’ on the last day of classes? Because we will have spent much of the rest of the time talking about news of a decidedly less ‘good’ nature, which necessarily paints a skewed picture of a region that (for me) fits a bit too uncomfortably close to historical stereotyping. More details forthcoming on D2L and in class.
Post-Class Assignment: (40%)

There will be a final written assignment due two weeks after the final class, which like its pre-class counterpart, should be sent to the drop-box at the D2L course site. Also like that first written assignment, details regarding the post-class work will be discussed in class/posted to D2L and should use the file name protocol: LASTNAME-HI-2 (i.e., RYAN-HI-2.docx).

For both pieces of written work (indeed, for any written work), it is crucial that you appropriately cite any and all sources for material that is not your own. Any of the predominantly used academic citation styles are acceptable, including use of a reference page, footnotes/endnotes, etc. What is categorically not acceptable is a failure to adhere to proper citation requirements. If you are at all unclear regarding citation standards, it is imperative that you familiarize yourself with such standards before submitting any written work. Pro tip: Over the course of a 20+ year teaching career, I have never once heard of a student’s work being graded downward as a result of ‘over-citation.’

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Jeffrey J. Ryan, Ph.D.

Education
- 1989 Ph. D., Political Science, Rice University
- 1987 M.A., Political Science, Rice University
- 1983 B.A., Technical Journalism, Colorado State University

Current Positions
Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (1990-present)

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- Political violence, revolution, terrorism, guerrilla warfare
- Political institutions, parties and party systems, electoral turnout, anti-immigrant voting
- Decentralization, municipal reform, local government

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- Political violence, revolution, terrorism, guerrilla warfare
- Political institutions, parties and party systems, electoral turnout, anti-immigrant voting
- Decentralization, municipal reform, local government

Teaching Awards
- Dr. John and Mrs. Lois Imhoff Award for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship (2011)
- Fulbright College Master Teacher Award (1996)

Representative Publications

Representative Presentation

Professor Biosketch:
Jeffrey J. Ryan received his Ph.D. from Rice University in 1989 and is Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin American Studies at the University of Arkansas. His dissertation focused on the dynamics of insurgency in Latin America from 1956-1986 based on a simulation of guerrilla-regime interactions. Subsequent work looked at the relationship between democratization and revolutionary movements in the region. His current research focuses on two different themes: Nicaraguan immigration and anti-immigrant party support in Costa Rica; and the impact of terrorist incidents on civil liberties in target countries. He has presented his work at numerous conferences in the United States, as well as in international settings such as Cuba, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Venezuela, Mexico and Argentina.