

POLITICAL CHANGE

POLS 4520-01 / POLS 5520-01

Fall 2015
Wed: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
McGannon Hall #122

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Office hours- Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-2:00, or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

Welcome! This course is designed to familiarize students with major theoretical approaches to understanding and explaining periods of political change. Political change involves understanding both long-term causal processes and their consequences as well as the more immediate causes and consequences of political change. Sometimes change is rapid and momentous (e.g., violent revolutions) and sometimes it is slow and barely perceptible (e.g., the impact of economic development on political change).

A course on political change runs the risk of over-reaching. Politics is rarely static and, therefore, almost any topic in Political Science could fall under the title “Political Change.” In order to make the course more manageable, the course will mainly focus on political change in an international context. It is my hope that students leave the course with a greater empirical grasp of international politics as well as the theoretical and methodological skills to analyze political changes around the world.

My goals for the course are the following:

- 1) Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the historical roots of contemporary Latin American politics.
- 2) Students will master the major theoretical perspectives used to explain political and economic change.
- 3) Students will acquire specific knowledge about different countries and political systems.
- 4) Students will hone their critical reasoning skills through careful reading and discussion of competing arguments.
- 5) Students will develop their abilities to write short, focused analytical essays.
- 6) Students will strengthen their skills in independent research and writing.
- 7) Students will leave the course with the ability to make informed and reasoned judgements about a wide variety of issues facing scholars and practitioners of contemporary politics.

Welcome!

Required texts:

All required and optional texts are available for purchase at the Saint Louis University Bookstore in the Busch Student Center.

Readings that are NOT in the required books are available through the library's online e-journals website (go to libraries.slu.edu and click on "research" then on "e-journals portal" and follow the instructions for searching for journal articles), or will be sent to you via email as PDF files.

The **required** books for the course are:

Drake, Paul. 2009. *Between Tyranny and Anarchy: A History of Democracy in Latin America, 1800-2006*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Frank, Marc. 2015. *Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press.

Kaup, Brent. 2012. *Market Justice: Political Economic Struggle in Bolivia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Lynch, Marc. 2012. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. New York: Public Affairs

Economy, Elizabeth and Michael Levi. 2014. *By All Means Necessary: How China's Resource Quest is Changing the World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Naím, Moisés. 2013. *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What it Used to Be*. New York: Basic Books.

Course requirements and grading:

1-page papers: 15 points

These papers should be *no more than one page* (single or double-spaced) and are due by 11:59 pm the day *before* class. These papers should be brief, critical reflections on the readings. They should not be summaries of the readings. The purpose of this assignment is twofold: (1) it forces you to read and think critically about the readings before coming to class, and (2) it gives me the chance to see what issues were of particular interest or concern to you and tailor our class discussions around those issues. For this reason it is absolutely crucial that these papers be submitted to me via email (jbowen5@slu.edu) and on time (by 11:59 pm the day before class).

*****UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LATE PAPERS BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.**

*NOTE TO POLS 452 STUDENTS: You must turn in 5 papers (out of 11 classes where we have assigned readings).

*NOTE TO POLS 552 STUDENTS: You must turn in 7 papers (out of 11 classes where we have assigned readings).

Midterm exam: 15 points

The final exam will be essay in nature. It will be a take-home exam. It will be sent to you via email at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, October 20th and will be due on Wednesday, October 21st by 9:30pm.

Annotated bibliography: 10 points

All students will be completing a research paper for this course. After you choose a topic in consultation with the professor, the first step is to prepare an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography should consist of *no fewer than* 4 sources, and should be theoretical in nature. You might think of these as brief versions of the 1-page papers described above. Each source listed in the bibliography should be accompanied by a short paragraph explaining the theoretical insights that the source provides and how it is applicable to your research question.

Due: Sunday, October 25th @ 11:59pm (via email)

*We will discuss these in class on Oct. 28th.

Literature review: 10 points

The 2nd step in the process of writing your research paper is to expand your annotated bibliography into a full literature review. This literature review should be approximately 5 to 7 pages in length. The purpose of the literature review is to take the major theoretical approaches that you identify in your annotated bibliography and use them to develop possible answers to the research question you have identified.

Due: Friday, November 13th (via email)

Research presentation: 10 points

Before students hand in the final version of their research papers everyone will present their work to the class. This is an opportunity to get feedback on your work from your classmates which will help you revise your paper for final submission. Research presentations will be during class on *December 9th*. Attendance at this class is absolutely mandatory- NO EXCEPTIONS!

Research paper: 30 points

Final research papers should be approximately 25 pages.

Due: Friday, May 11th @ 5pm (hard copy, please)

Review essay: 20 points (POLS 5520 students ONLY)

This essay should survey major recent works on a particular topic relevant to the course. The topic should be substantially different from the student's research paper topic. The goal of this essay is to analyze the "state of the art" in a particular area of political science scholarship. The essay should review 3 or 4 recent books, which should be selected in consultation with the professor. The essay should be 8-10 pages in length. I will provide examples of what these essays should look like.

Due: Friday, Nov. 20th @ 5pm (hard copy, please)

Class participation: 10 points

Your attendance and active participation are vital to the success of this course. Different students participate in different ways. At a minimum, students should come to class on time having read

and thought about the assigned readings for that class. I expect that all students will make a contribution to class discussions through comments, questions, criticisms, and analysis of the assigned readings. In assigning grades, quality of participation will take precedence over quantity of participation (hence, students who participate frequently but without giving much thought to their comments/questions are not at an advantage compared to the student who offers occasional but insightful analysis and questions).

Final letter grades will be assigned that correspond to the following numeric scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Attendance and participation:

I do not consider class time to be a time simply to review the assigned readings. We will cover materials during class that are not in the readings (and we will not cover every single point from the readings in class). Class attendance is, therefore, imperative. If you must miss class for an approved reason (e.g.; illness, death or medical emergency in the immediate family, University-sponsored activities), please let me know via email as soon as possible. You are responsible for all materials covered in class, whether you are physically present or not. Make-up exams will be given only under the most extraordinary of circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 5 points per day.

Classroom courtesy:

Out of respect for all of those in class, all cell phones, pagers, and any other noisemaking devices must be turned OFF during the entire class period and during exams. Laptop computers may be used in class provided they do not make noise that disturbs those around you. I reserve the right to ask you to turn off and put away your computer if it is creating a disruption.

Students with disabilities:

In an effort to be inclusive of students' learning styles and needs with regard to academic support, the following statement has been developed for use in course syllabi which identifies resources for student support in various areas of learning. Please update your materials to reflect the following language in place of the former statement that had been specific to include resources only for students with disabilities.

"In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at [314-977-8885](tel:314-977-8885) or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Academic integrity:

I expect all students to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations will be reported and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts & Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. I encourage you to view official University policy on matters of academic integrity at: <http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

Additional resources:

In addition to the required readings, there is a wealth of additional material that you may wish to consult throughout the semester or in the future. Below is a partial list of resources that you may find useful. Most (if not all) of these can be accessed through the library's e-journals website.

Academic journals dealing specifically with issues of political change in Latin America:

Bulletin of Latin American Research

Journal of Latin American Studies

Journal of Politics in Latin America

Latin American Politics and Society

Latin American Research Review

NACLA Report on the Americas (Left-leaning news magazine with short articles on contemporary Latin American issues)

Websites with plentiful information on various aspects of Latin American politics, economics, culture, etc.

www.lanic.utexas.edu
<http://pdba.georgetown.edu/>

Links to most major Latin American newspapers (mostly in the local language of each country) can be found here:

<http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/>

More journals and policy-relevant magazines that frequently deal with topics related to Latin America:

Comparative Politics
Current History
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Journal of Democracy
World Politics

In addition, there are excellent English-language journals dealing with other regions of the world. Here are a few of the better ones.

*For Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union:

Post-Soviet Politics
Europe-Asia Studies
Slavic Review
Demokratizatsiya

*For Africa:

Journal of Modern African Studies
Journal of Asian and African Politics
Journal of African Economics
Africa Today
Africa Confidential

*For the Middle East:

Middle East Journal
Middle East Policy
British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard Middle Eastern and Islamic Review

*For Asia:

Asian Survey
Journal of Asian Studies
Pacific Affairs
China Quarterly

*For Western Europe:
West European Politics
Comparative European Politics
European Journal of Political Research
Journal of Contemporary European Studies
European Political Science Review

Course schedule:

Aug. 26- Introduction and syllabus

Sep. 2- Theories of change and barriers to change

*Anderson, Charles. 1974. "Toward a Theory of Latin American Politics," in Wiarda, Howard, ed. *Politics and Social Change in Latin America: The Distinct Tradition*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, pp. 249-265.

*Huber, Evelyne. 1995. "Introduction," in Huber and Stafford, eds. *Agrarian Structure and Political Power: Landlord and Peasant in the Making of Latin America*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, pp. 3-20.

*Cappocia, Giovanni and R. Daniel Kelemen. 2007. "The Study of Critical Junctures: Theory, Narrative, and Counterfactuals in Historical Institutionalism," *World Politics*, Vol., 59, No. 3, pp. 341-369.

Sep. 9- The *longue durée*- Political change in long-term perspective.

*Coatsworth, John. 2008. "Inequality, Institutions, and Economic Growth in Latin America," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, No. 40, No. 3, pp. 545-569.

*Drake, Ch. 1-4 (pp. 1-125).

Sep. 16- Periodization and change in 20th century Latin America

*Drake, Ch. 5-8 (pp. 126-248).

Sep. 23- Revolutionary change and continuity (Cuba)

*Frank, Marc. 2015. *Cuban Revelations: Behind the Scenes in Havana*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press.

Sep. 30- Institutions and change

*Linz, Juan. 1990. "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 51-69.

*Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John Stephens. 1997. "The Paradoxes of Contemporary Democracy: Formal, Participatory, and Social Dimensions," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 323-342.

*Hochstetler, Kathryn. 2011. "The Fate of Presidents in Post-Transition Latin America: From Democratic Breakdown to Impeachment to Presidential Breakdown," *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, Vol. 3, No. 1: 125-141.

*Robinson, Neil. 2012. "The Contexts of Russia's Political Economy: Soviet Legacies and Post-Soviet Policies," in Robinson, Neil, ed. *The Political Economy of Russia*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 15-50.

Oct. 7- Political economy of change

*Haggard, Stephan and Steven Webb. 1993. "What Do We Know About the Political Economy of Policy Reform?" *The World Bank Observer*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 143-168.

*Roberts, Kenneth. 2013. "Market Reform, Programmatic (De-)Alignment, and Party System Stability in Latin America," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 11: 1422-1452.

*Easter, Gerald. 2012. "Revenue Imperatives: State Over Market in Postcommunist Russia," in Robinson, Neil, ed. *The Political Economy of Russia*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, pp.51-68.

Oct. 14- Political actors as agents of change

*Bermeo, Nancy. 1993. "Myths of Moderation: Confrontation and Conflict During Democratic Transitions," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 29, No. 3, pp. 305-322.

*Yashar, Deborah. 1999. "Democracy, Indigenous Movements, and the Post-Liberal Challenge in Latin America," *World Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 1, pp. 76-104.

*Bellin, Eva. 2000. "Contingent Democrats: Industrialists, Labor, and Democratization in Late-Developing Countries," *World Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 2, pp. 175-205.

*Dargent, Eduardo. 2011. "Agents or Actors? Assessing the Autonomy of Economic Technocrats in Colombia and Peru," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 313-332.

Oct. 21- MIDTERM

Oct. 28- Research paper workshop

Nov. 4- Reformism (Bolivia)

*Kaup, Brent. 2012. *Market Justice: Political Economic Struggle in Bolivia*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Nov. 11- Revolution and reaction (the "Arab Spring")

*Lynch, Marc. 2012. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. New York: Public Affairs

Nov. 18- Global forces of change (China)

*Economy, Elizabeth and Michael Levi. 2014. *By All Means Necessary: How China's Resource Quest is Changing the World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Dec. 2: The end of power?

*Naím, Moisés. 2013. *The End of Power: From Boardrooms to Battlefields and Churches to States, Why Being in Charge Isn't What it Used to Be*. New York: Basic Books.

Dec. 9- Research presentation

Dec. 11- Papers due