



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Madrid Campus

(POLS-293) INSIDE CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA.

First Summer Session, 2009

May 18th. – June 20th. 2009 Monday-Thursday 10:00-12:50

(Final Exam June 19th. 2009)

Instructor: Mario Ojeda Revah, PhD (mojedare@slu.edu)

Course Description:

An intensive, on site review of Latin American politics around the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay). Politics, people and culture; the effects of history (volatile markets, military rule) on everyday life in the region today; the environmental and developmental issues of the region, as well as its art, culture and society. Seminars to be conducted by leading policy-makers, in addition to Madrid campus faculty, to foster a first-hand, in-depth understanding of the most pressing issues Latin America faces today.

Aims and Objectives:

- To understand the evolution of Latin American political systems;
- To understand the social and economic context within which Latin American political systems are located (including political culture, class, race, and urban and rural cleavages);
- To analyze political processes in specific countries focusing on their democratic content (or lack thereof);
- To evaluate governmental policies as they affect citizen rights and social and economic equality;
- To examine likely future political scenarios in Latin America based on projections from current political trends.
- To appraise relevant aspects of the cultures of the diverse visited regions.

Grade Scale:

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	73%-79%
C	67%-72%

Grade Components:

40% Written Paper (2,500 words)
50% Final Exam
10% Class participation

Course Credits: 3

C-	60%-66%
D	50%-59%
F	0%-49%

Requirements:

Students are expected to complete the readings for this course before the date for which they are listed. Students will be graded on the basis of two essays of 1,500 words, concerning each visited country (i.e. Argentina and Brazil) and a final exam. Participation in class will also be evaluated. You should make every effort to read as widely as possible for the course (including texts which are in Spanish!), and you must be prepared to share with the other students any information which you have gained through your reading.

The essays are to be written in English and handed in on you will be required to show in the essays that you have carried out a significant amount of reading on the subject. It is vital that you include a bibliography: essays submitted without one will be handed back to be resubmitted. Include in the bibliography all works which you have consulted (including web sites), whether or not you have read the entire thing.

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Course Books: Clayton, Lawrence A. and Conniff, Michael L., *A History of Modern Latin America*, Thomson Wadsworth, Belmont, CA, 2005, and Lewis, Daniel K. *The History of Argentina* New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Monday May 18th.

The Independence of Latin America. Causes, Development and Aftermath.

Reading: Clayton and Conniff, Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 23-72

2. Tuesday May 19th.

Latin American in the Early 19th. Century. Dictators and Revolutions.

Reading: Clayton and Conniff, Chapter 5, pp. 72-105

3. Wednesday May 20th.

Economic Transformation and the Triumph of Neo-colonialism. Society and Culture

Readings: Clayton and Conniff, Chapters 6 and 7, pp. 108-148.

4. Thursday, May 21st.

The Thirties. Depression and Upheaval.

Reading: Clayton and Conniff, Chapters 16 and 17, pp.302-337.

5. Friday, May 22nd.

Latin American in the Second World War.

Reading: Clayton and Conniff, Chapter 18, pp. 339-352

6. Monday, May, 26th.

Populism in Latin America.

Reading: Chapter 19, pp. 353-378

7. Tuesday, May, 27th.

Present-day Argentina,

Reading Lewis, Chapter 1, pp.1-17.

8. Wednesday, May, 28th.

Argentina's "Golden Age," (1880-1910).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 4, pp. 53-72.

9. Thursday, May, 29th.

The Advent of Democracy, (1912-1943).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 5, pp.73-92.

10. Friday, May 30th.

Perón and Peronism, (1943-1955).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 6, pp. 93-112.

11. Monday, June, 1st.

The Bureaucratic Authoritarian Solution, (1955-1972).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 7, pp.113-132.

12. Tuesday, June 2nd.

A Society at War with Itself. (1970-83).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 8, pp. 133-150.

13. Wednesday, June 3rd.

Democracy's Fragile Return (1983-1995).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 9, pp. 151-168.

14. Thursday, June 4th.

Whither Argentina? (1995- to the present day).

Reading, Lewis, Chapter 10, pp. 169-186.

15. Friday, June 5th.

Flight to Buenos Aires.

16. Saturday, June 6th.

Arrival to Buenos Aires. City Tour. Free Evening

17. Sunday, June 7th.

Tour to Tigre and Delta

18. Monday, June 8th.

Free Day. Tango Show and Dinner

19. Tuesday, June 9th.

Flight Buenos Aires-Iguazú. Waterfalls Tour. Brazilian side of the border.

20. Wednesday, June 10th.

Visit to the Jesuit Missions.

21. Thursday, June, 11th.

22. Friday, June 12th.

Iguazú- Buenos Aires flight.

23. Saturday, June 13th. Meeting with the HIJOS organization. **HIJOS** is an acronym for **Hijos por la Identidad y la Justicia contra el Olvido y el Silencio** (English: *Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice Against Forgetting and Silence*), and is the name of organizations of the children of people who were "disappeared" in Argentina and in Guatemala. The Argentine organization was founded in 1995 in Córdoba and La Plata.

24. Sunday, June 14th.

Day trip to Uruguay, taking the ferry across the Río de la Plata, visiting the colonial town of Colonia, listed as world heritage site by the UNESCO, and then Montevideo, the capital of that country

25. Monday, June 15th.

Visit to Museums. MALBA, Recoletos Cemetery and Palermo District.

26. Tuesday, June 16th.

Free Day

27. Wednesday, June 17th.

Buenos Aires-Madrid Flight

28. Thursday, June 18th.

Arrival to Madrid

29. Friday, June 19th.

FINAL EXAM: 12a.m-15 p.m.

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Course Reading:

All readings are mandatory.

It is also strongly recommended that you follow current Latin American affairs, policy developments, debates and arguments on Latin America (to be discussed and analyzed in class). Try and read the daily press. Try to stay in touch with what is going on in the visited countries.

Online Press:

The Buenos Aires Herald. (In English)

<http://www.buenosairesherald.com/>

El Clarín, Buenos Aires, Argentina

<http://www.clarin.com/>

Página 12, Buenos Aires, Argentina

www.pagina12.com.ar

The London-based daily *The Guardian* carries a permanent special report on Argentina.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/argentina>

Key Latin-American Websites

Internet Resources for Latin America:

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/subject/bord/laguia/#intro>

Latin American Network Information Center (LANIC)

[http://lanic.utexas.edu /](http://lanic.utexas.edu/)