(PALAS 360) Political and Social Change
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Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Course Syllabus 2015-2

Course Information
Monday- Wednesday 11:30-13:00
Hours of Instruction: 60
Instruction in English

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Course Description
This course focuses on political and social change and its instrumental role in the formation of national identity. Drawing mainly on historic sources, the course analyzes the cases of Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and Argentina. Students will get familiar not only with the political system and parties but also with the uprising of new social actors and protest movements and prospects resulting from the dialogue between states, societies and social forces. The course will also address the role citizenship and institutions play in democracy nowadays and the effect the succession of repressive military dictatorships had in relation to memory.

Course Requirements
Following UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with attendance policy. Notice that classes missed for national holidays will not be recovered. No excuses will be granted for travelling. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class. During the semester, students will do one oral presentations in pairs and write a 2-3 page report. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research. UB holds to the view that plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and is a serious breach of acceptable conduct. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a “no credit” for all courses taken in the semester. The requirements also include a midterm and a final exam. The teaching process, through theoretical and practical activities, seeks to stimulate active and reflexive, individual and group participation through critical reading.

Grading Policy
Completion of participation and presentations 30%
Midterm exam 30%
Approval of final exam 40%

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the student handbook (page 9) in orientation kit packet.
**Course Content:**

**Unit 1: The political system of a new society (1810-1920)**
The crisis of the Spanish Colonial Empire, the Spanish heritage, and the formation of the new republics. The emergence of new regional political units: Caudillos, regional differences, ethnic groups, and the formation of a new society in the oligarchic republics. Modernization, urbanization, and democratization: European immigration, new ideologies and political parties, emerging social actors, and a modern identity.

**Unit 2: Populism (1920-1970)**
Local transformations within the impact of the international cyclical crises. The emergence of Populism: organized labor, imports substitution, Nationalism, and the State; the new middle classes. Peronismo, Varguismo, Ibañismo, and Cardenismo. Ideological dynamics within Populism: Revolution or Reform?

**Unit 3: Authoritarianism**

**Unit 4: Redemocratization**
New power relations in the emerging democracies through the structural transformation of globalization. The human rights movement and the heritage of State terrorism. The search for sustainable development. The new agenda: ecology, regional migration, drugs and money laundering, social polarization and exclusion.

**Academic Calendar**

**Week 1 / Unit 1**
Introduction: Toward new political relations in the post-independence period, 1800-1824

Lecture session: Introductory comments
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation* Chapter 2

Discussion session: No meeting

**Week 2 / Unit 1**
The Origins of a Latin American ideological field, 1820-1870

Lecture session: Introductory comments
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation* Chapter 8

Discussion session: No meeting
**Week 3 / Unit 1**  
Politics and society in the neocolonial order, 1870-1910

Lecture session:  
Chapter 2

Lecture session:  
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation*  
Chapter 8

**Week 4 / Unit 2**  
The political and social transformations of the new century, 1870-1910

Lecture session: **Holiday**

Discussion session:  
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation*  
Chapter 3

**Week 5 / Unit 2**  
Populism, 1910-1960

Lecture session:  
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation*  
Chapter 4

**Make-up session**

Discussion session:  
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation*  
Chapter 5

**Week 6 / Unit 2**  
Populism, 1910-1960

Lecture session:  
Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press 1988)  
Introduction

Discussion session:  
Ian Roxborough, “Populism and Class Conflict;”

Pp. 119-135

John Charles Chasteen and Joseph S. Tulchin (eds.), *Problems...*  
Chapter 4
**Week 7 / Unit 2**  
Populism, 1910-1960

Lecture session:  
Selection of texts from Readers about Argentina, Brazil, México, Perú

Discussion session:  
Selection of texts from Readers about Argentina, Brazil, México, Perú

**Week 8**  
**Review**

**Make-up session**

**Midterm exam**

**Week 9/ Unit 3**  
Modernization and Authoritarianism, 1960-1990

Lecture session: **Holiday**

Discussion session:  

**Week 10 / Unit 3**  
Modernization and Authoritarianism, 1960-1990

Lecture session:  

Discussion session:  

**Week 11/ Unit 3**  
Modernization and Authoritarianism, 1960-1990

Lecture session:  
Bradford Burns, *Latin America: Conflict and Creation* Chapter 7

Discussion session:  

Political and Social Change Syllabus
**Week 12 / Unit 4**
Redemocratization, 1980-

Lecture session: **Holiday**

Discussion session:

Alfred Stepan (ed.), *Redemocratizing Brazil* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1989) Chapter 1, 4, 6, 9

Louis A. Pérez, Jr., *Cuba: Between Reform and Revolution* Chapter 10, 11, 12

**Week 13 / Unit 4**
Redemocratization, 1980-

Lecture session:
John Walton, “Debt, Protest and the State in Latin America,” Monograph

Discussion session:
Selection of texts from Readers about Argentina, Brazil, México, Perú

**Week 14/ Unit 4**
Redemocratization, 1980-

Lecture session:
Sergio Serulnikov, “When Looting Becomes a Right: Urban Poverty and Food Riots in Argentina,” Monograph

Discussion session:
Philip Oxhorn, “Social inequality, civil society, and the limits of citizenship in Latin America,” Monograph

**Week 15**
Review

**Final exam**
Final Grade and signature of *Hoja de situación* (attendance is mandatory).

*Students holding a student visa will not be allowed to take final exams, they have to go to the 17 Floor to clear the hold.*
Bibliography