

PSC 332-01: Politics of Latin America

Fall 2026

M/W/F 11:00 – 11:50 am
ten Hoor Rm. 258

Instructor: Corinne Lyons (she/her)

Email: cnlyons@crimson.ua.edu

Office Hours: M/W 9:45-10:45 am in TH 351, and by appointment

Course Description

This course will examine Latin American political and economic developments throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts of Latin American politics in a comparative perspective.
- Analyze political and economic trends across Latin America over time.
- Analyze unique political phenomena in Latin American countries through case studies.

Required Text

Kline, Harvey, F. and Christine J. Wade. 2023. *Latin American Politics and Development: 10th Ed.* New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9781108708555

Other assigned readings will be based on current events throughout the semester and will be made available via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Blackboard

Announcements regarding the course will be posted in Blackboard and sent to your Crimson email address. It is your responsibility to either regularly check your Crimson email for communication from me about the course, or regularly check BB Announcements.

Attendance

Attending class is expected. Please communicate attendance issues to me in advance. If you will miss class for an extended period of time, please notify me so that we can consider appropriate solutions. Note that if you are absent on the date an assignment is due, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on time unless prior arrangements have been made.

Reading

You should plan to devote a significant amount of time to carefully reading the chapters. You are encouraged to take notes on the reading in whatever format you think will be most helpful to you (chapter outlines, notes on important terms or concepts, etc.). I do **not** cover everything from the reading material in the lecture.

You should also read the news from a variety of news sources.

Graded Assignments

- There will be **two exams** worth **30% each of your total grade**. The format will be essays via Blue Book in class. You may refer to written notes during the exam.
- There will be **two map quizzes** worth **10% each of your total grade**. Quizzes will be given in class.
- There will be **one current event presentation** worth **20% of your total grade**. Each day, one or two students will present a current event orally to the class. The presentation should not exceed five minutes in length. The selected current event should be connected an ongoing political issue in a Latin American country. The source should be from a respected news outlet and be less than one week old. During presentations, students are required to do the following: (1) summarize the chosen article, (2) explain its relevance to content that we have covered in class, and (3) pose one discussion question to the class. Students are required to submit an electronic copy of the selected news article and discussion question via email. Additionally, students will be required to respond to 7 discussion questions throughout the semester.
- **Attendance** is graded for extra credit. Attendance is expected for every class. I will add 5 points of extra credit to your exam if you attend class every day during the unit.

Students are expected to submit original work for these assignments which will be ran through Turnitin. Submitted responses with traces of plagiarism will result in a referral to the Dean's office.

Policy Regarding Make-Ups and Late Work

- Exams – If you have to miss any exam due to university-sponsored events, illness, or a traumatic event, you should contact me within 48 hours of the event and provide documentation for a make-up exam to be scheduled.
- Map Quizzes – **Quizzes will be in class** and will be accepted late in extenuating circumstances, for which appropriate documentation is required.
- Current Event Presentation – **Your article and discussion question are due by 10 am on the day you are scheduled to present.** If you are unable to present on your assigned day, please communicate with me to reschedule.

Extra Credit

I reserve the right to assign extra credit assignments and opportunities.

Grading Summary

Exams	60%
Quizzes	20%
Current Event Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Final Grade Calculation

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F <60
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Course Schedule

The course schedule and syllabus may be modified during the course of the semester. In the event of such modifications, an updated syllabus will be posted on Blackboard Learn and students will be notified via Crimson email. All times listed are in Central Time.

August 19 and 21: Introduction to Latin American Politics

Read: Syllabus; Kline and Wade, Chapter 1

August 24, 26, and 28: History of Latin American Politics I

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 2

August 31, September 2, and 4: History of Latin American Politics II

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 2

September 9 and 11: State Institutions and Public Policy I

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 3

Map Quiz: South America (in class 9/9)

September 14, 16, and 18: State Institutions and Public Policy II

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 3

September 21, 23, and 25: Political Economy in Latin America I

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 5

September 28, 30, and October 2: Political Economy in Latin America II

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 5

October 5: Midterm Review

October 7: Exam 1

October 9, 12, 14, and 16: Political Competition in Latin America

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 4

October 19, 21, and 23: Latin America and the United States I

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 6

October 26 and 28: Latin America and the United States II

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 7

Map Quiz: Central America and the Caribbean (in class 10/26)

November 2, 4, and 6: The Struggle for Democracy in Latin America

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 7

November 9, 11, and 13: Argentina Case Study

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 8

November 16, 18, and 20: Peru Case Study

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 12

November 30, December 2, and 4: Mexico Case Study

Read: Kline and Wade, Chapter 18

December 8, 8:00 am: Exam 2

University of Alabama Policies & Statements

Notification of Changes

The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

AI Use Statement

Students are welcome to explore generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to seek support for their assignments or other activities. However, students should follow the "verify everything" approach to the content generated by these AI tools. These tools learned the models from the public internet, which means they may reproduce substantial text from other sources. It is the student's responsibility to check the original sources to be sure they are not plagiarizing someone else's work. Students should also cross-check the content and citations generated by these tools to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.

Students should incorporate the subsequent statement in their assignments when using a Generative AI Tool: "For this assignment's preparation, the author(s) have utilized [Generative AI Tool Name], a language model created by [Generative AI Tool Provider]. Within this assignment, the [Generative AI Tool Name] was used for purposes such as [e.g., brainstorming, grammatical correction, writing paraphrasing, citation, specific sections of the assignment]."

Controversial Topics

Some of the topics in this course may be considered controversial. One of the core purposes of a university is to discuss important topics through a scholarly lens. When members of a class find themselves feeling strongly about a topic, that is a signal that the topic is important enough to be discussed rather than avoided. Differences of opinion are expected and will result in rich discussions. In these discussions students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of concepts presented in the course materials and to ground their positions in concepts and evidence relevant to the course. This in turn will entail coming to class prepared, asking relevant questions, sharing perspectives, having a willingness to listen, and practicing open-mindedness when encountering the perspectives of others. In this course we will assume the positive intentions of all class members when discussing important topics, and we will give them the benefit of the doubt when considering their perspectives and sharing our own.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and

to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. The [Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy](#) will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Statement on Disability Accommodations

The University of Alabama is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and need reasonable accommodation(s) to participate in this class, contact the Office of Disability Services (or ODS; 205-348-4285, ods@ua.edu, Houser Hall 1000, www.ods.ua.edu) as soon as possible. If you have been approved to receive accommodations through ODS, please meet with your instructor or College designee during office hours or by appointment to review your accommodation letter and discuss how accommodations can be implemented in this course.

Severe Weather Protocol

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life-saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of Public Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through Connect-ED--faculty, staff and students ([sign up at myBama](#))
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA 7. WVUA 7 Storm Watch provides a free service you can subscribe to that allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail, pager or cell phone. Check <http://www.wvua7.com/stormwatch.html> for details.

Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know is facing a challenging time or dealing with academic or personal stress, anxiety, depression, or other concerns, we strongly encourage and support you to seek assistance or to help friends find the care that they may [need](#). Also, if you are experiencing a personal crisis and need urgent assistance, you can also contact the following resources:

Counseling Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-3863).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak with the on-call counselor).
- You may also text BAMA to 741-741 to text with a trained volunteer.

Women and Gender Resource Center

- Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-5040).
- Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate for the WGRC).

UAct Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Pregnant Student Accommodations

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University's FAQs on the UAct website.

Religious Observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines.