This course is an introduction to comparative politics of Latin America from the perspective of the processes of political change and democratization. The course begins with a comparative analysis of political systems and historical cycles of political change in the region and then concentrate on a number of issues that characterize the so-called third wave democratization, ranging from the late 70s to the present. Discuss some of the challenges that the countries of the region, such as economic crisis, the problems of political representation, weak accountability and waves of violence and crime face. Also analyze the various answers that have been given to address these crises and the consequences of these responses, as the new populism, the emergence of a new left, and institutional reforms to increase the capacity of the state. Some questions that guide the course is why some democracies and other collapse persist? What the democracies of the "third wave" of the previous waves of different? Why, in the third wave, some countries have democracies of higher quality than others? Do some countries face a new cycle of authoritarianism or are simply building different democracies? After completing the course students are expected to know the main challenges posed by the new democracies in Latin America.

Syllabus

1. Political Regime in Comparative Policy and in Latin America.


Recommended readings:

2. Cycles of Political Changes


Recommended reading:

• Larry Diamond, Juan Linz, and Seymour Martin Lipset, Democracy in Developing Countries: Latin America. Rienner.

3. Varieties of Authoritarianism


Recommended reading:


4. The "Third Wave" of Democratization in Comparative Perspective

• Peter Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Caps. 2 y 3

Recommended reading:

5. Electoral Alignments and Transformations of the Party System


Recommended reading:


6. Transformations Presidential Regime


Recommended reading:


7. Institutional Crisis and Interrupted Presidencies

**Recommended reading:**


8. **The Quality of Democracy and Representation**


**Recommended reading:**

• Daniel Levine y Jose Molina, *The Quality of Democracy in Latin America*.

9. **Crisis of representation and populism**

Recommended reading:


10. The Emergence of the New Left


Recommended reading:


11. The Political Economy of Policy Change: What explains the Authoritarian Interventions?

Previous reading:


Optional (for individual cases):


12. *The Political Economy of Political Change: How to implement reforms pro-market democracies (and survive)?*


Previous reading:


Optional:

13. The Political Economy of The Political Transformations: What explain the Emergence of New Left?


Previous reading:


Optional:


14. The Political Economy of Political Change: What is the future of the Left?


**Recommended reading:**


15. Rule of Law and State Capacity


16. Accountability Institutions

To read:


**Recommended reading:**

• Helmke, Gretchen and Julio Ríos Figueroa (eds.), Courts in Latin America, New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1


17. The Courts and the Control of Political Power

To read:

• Rios Figueroa, Julio. 2015. Constitutional Courts ad Mediators. Civilian Governments, Armed Forces, and the Rule of Law in Latin America. Chapter 1, 2, 7

Recommended reading:

• Pereira, AW. 2001. “Virtual Legality Authoritarian Legacies and the Reform of Military Justice in Brazil, the Southern Cone, and Mexico.” Comparative Political Studies 34(5): 555–74


18. The Courts and the Protection of Social and Economic Rights

To read:


Recommended reading:


19. Corruption Control

• Marcus André Melo, Carlos Pereira, and Carlos Mauricio Figueiredo. “Political and Institutional Checks on Corruption: Explaining the Performance of Brazilian Audit Institutions.” Comparative Political Studies September 2009 vol. 42 no. 9 1217-1244.

Recommended reading:


20. Protection of Basic Human Rights

To read:


Recommended reading:


21. Transitional Justice, Impunity and Rule of Law

To read:


Recommended reading:

• Jon Elster, *Closing the books*. New York: Cambridge University Press
• James McAdams (ed.), *Transitional Justice in New Democracies*, Notre Dame University Press

22. Inequality and Rule of Law

To read:


Recommended reading:

23. Central America: Conflict, Violence and Rule of Law

To read:


Recommended reading:

24. Informal Institutions and/or Weak Institutions

To read:


Recommended reading:


Movies sessions and thematic discussion

25. Mayo 14: Military Dictatorships

26. Mayo 19: Populism

27. Mayo 21: New Political Instability in Latin America