

## CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Number and Title:** POLS 2290, section 01 – Governments and Politics of Latin America

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2015

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:**

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time:** 11:00am-12:15pm

**Days:** TTH

**Room:** LH 183

**Instructor's Name:** Erich Frankland

**Instructor's Office #:** LH 175-I

**Phone #:** 268-2490

**E-mail:** [efrankland@caspercollege.edu](mailto:efrankland@caspercollege.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday and Friday 9:00-10:00am; Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:00am; Wednesday 11:00am-12:00pm; if these times and/or days are inconvenient, please make an appointment to see me. In case of an emergency please contact Crystal Sosalla, School Academic Assistant, in Liesinger Hall 166 or at 268-2368 or [csosalla@caspercollege.edu](mailto:csosalla@caspercollege.edu).

**Course Description:** This course studies chief cultural and historical factors influencing the Latin American political process by drawing on six country case studies as well as regional information. It also surveys major institutions and political patterns of the region.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** Each enrolled student must have completed U.S. and Wyoming Government (POLS 1000), or History of Western Civilization (HIST 1120), or have the permission of the instructor.

**General Objectives:** This course is designed to introduce the student to the context of Latin American politics, the political processes and institutions of specific Latin American countries, the rationale and machinery of regional institutions, and select national and transnational policy problems facing Latin America. This course will provide a comparative framework based on an analysis and discussion of the theories, histories, institutions, and policies of Latin America. The course will draw from the analysis and discussion of the politics and society of six countries in Latin America—Mexico, El Salvador, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil. Additional lectures and discussions will include comparative references to other countries in Central and South America as well as an overview of regional patterns and issues.

**Specific Objectives:** It is expected that completion of this course will assist each student in becoming:

1. more aware of the role of theories, values, histories, and principles involved in the study of Latin American politics;

2. familiar with the political organization and policies of Latin American countries;
3. familiar enough with the tools of professional analysis to understand contemporary Latin American politics as well as future possibilities;
4. better able to meet the reading, writing, researching, and speaking demands essential for a college experience;
5. familiar with the impetus, process, organization, and possible outcomes of regionalism in Latin America.

**Methodology/Evaluation Criteria:**

Examinations (300 points total)- There will be three exams for this course, which will be equally weighted (100 points each). Each exam will be composed of three parts that will draw from the readings, lectures, and discussion. Part one will contain a representative selection of objective questions including multiple choice and true/false questions. Part two will contain a set of descriptions of noteworthy individuals to which their names will be matched. Part three will contain a selection of short identification or definition questions. This part of the exam will include some choice of questions.

Participation and Discussion (75 points)- In addition to regular attendance, you are encouraged to participate in class discussion. Also, you will act as a discussion leader during the course of the class. This will entail a 10-15 minute presentation on one of the articles in the Goodwin reader followed by a question and answer period. Please do not come late to class as this disrupts lectures and discussion. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes for that class session.

Research Assignment (150 points)- For this assignment, you are asked to research a contemporary or historic policy problem for a particular Latin American country or one that affects Latin America as a whole. You should select a topic reflecting your personal interest and develop your research into a substantial term paper. You are encouraged to select a topic relating to one of the countries not specifically focused on in the course, but a pertinent issue dealing with one of the principal countries would also be acceptable. Regardless, your topic selection must be approved by the instructor. The first step in your research is the submission of a brief proposal (1-2 typed pages, worth 25 points with a title page and at least three bibliographic sources) that outlines what you wish to research for the term paper. Your topic may be approved, modified, or you may be encouraged to develop another by the instructor. The research paper (100 points) should be 8-10 typed pages (plus a title page and a bibliography) and utilize eight sources in addition to the course materials. You are encouraged to utilize professional journals as well as other sources like The Economist, Current History, The New York Times, Newsweek, World Press Review, and the Christian Science Monitor. Also, if you have world language skills (Spanish or Portuguese are most relevant for this course), you are encouraged to draw on sources in that language. Completion of your term paper will be followed by a brief in-class presentation (10-15 minutes, 25 points) of your paper. The general guidelines for this assignment and the other written work are included at the end of this syllabus. Possible topics for this assignment could include the role of the drug cartels in Mexico's economy and politics, gender issues in Peru, Spanish efforts to colonize the Caribbean, the resurgence of left populism in the region, the role of the military in Brazil's

development, and tensions with the United States over American efforts to combat illegal immigration.

Journal of Latin American Events (25 points)- during the course of the semester you should keep informed of the events that are happening in Latin America. This assignment furthers this goal by requiring that you briefly analyze ten different events that have occurred in Latin America, or that affect Latin America. Each event should include at least one source of information and be followed by your analysis (one paragraph or so should suffice). You do not need a bibliographic page for this assignment as your sources will already have been listed for each event entry. Do please include a title page though.

**Grade Distribution:**

Exam #1	100 points	Proposal	25 points
Exam #2	100 points	Presentation	25 points
Exam #3	100 points	Research Paper	100 points
Attendance & Participation	75 points	(Leading Discussion is 25 points)	
Journal	25 points		

Total of 550 points with grades distributed according to the following: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, 59% or less is failing

Contact the Instructor: Please feel free to stop by during my office hours, or make an appointment to see me. I am willing to discuss the course readings and assignments with you anytime. Please note that excuses for late assignments and missed exams will only be accepted in extreme cases and at the discretion of the instructor.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: If you have any questions regarding your rights and responsibilities, please refer to the Casper College Student Handbook.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty (Cheating and Plagiarism): Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College e-mail account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform the instructor as soon as possible privately after class or during office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability

Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, 307-268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Required Text, Readings, Materials:** You will need the following text materials for this class: Additional readings and hand-outs may also be utilized.

Goodwin, Paul B, ed. 2013. Global Studies: Latin America and the Caribbean. 15th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Skidmore, Thomas E., Peter H. Smith, James N. Green. 2014. Modern Latin America. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Last Day to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade:** Last date to change to audit status or to withdraw with a “W” grade is November 12.

**Course Outline\*:**

August 25 and 27: Introduction

Read Skidmore etal chapter 1; Goodwin introduction pp. 2-7

September 1, 3, 8: Background to Latin American Politics

Read Skidmore etal chapter 2; Goodwin pp. articles 1-4

September 7: No classes due to Labor Day holiday

September 10, 15, 17: The Politics and Society of Mexico

Read Skidmore etal chapter 3; Goodwin pp. 8-19 and article 7

September 22: Library Orientation

September 24: Outside of class work on paper proposal

September 29, October 1 and 6: The Politics and Society of El Salvador

Read Skidmore etal chapter 4; Goodwin pp. 20-26, 38-43, article 8

**Paper proposal due in class on October 6**

October 8: **Exam #1**, in-class

October 13: The Politics and Society of South America

Read Goodwin pp. 70-77, articles 5, 6, 9, 12, 15

October 15, 22, 27: The Politics and Society of Venezuela  
Read Skidmore etal chapter 8; Goodwin pp. 148-155, articles 13, 14, 16

October 19 and 20: No classes due to Fall Break

October 29 and November 3: The Politics and Society of Peru  
Read Skidmore etal chapter 6; Goodwin pp. 132-139

November 5, 10 ,12: The Politics and Society of Argentina  
Read Skidmore etal chapter 9; Goodwin pp. 78-84, article 10

November 6: No classes due to Advising Day

November 17: **Exam #2**, in-class

November 19, 24 and December 1: The Politics and Society of Brazil  
Read Skidmore etal chapter 11; Goodwin pp. 70-77, article 18  
**Research Paper due in class November 24**

December 3: The Dilemmas Facing Latin America  
Read Skidmore etal chapters 12-16

November 25-27: No classes due to Thanksgiving Break

December 8 and 10: Presentations of Research Papers  
**Journal of Latin American Events due in class December 10**

December 14-17: **Exam #3**, in-class during finals week

\*This schedule may be modified due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Paper Guidelines**

These guidelines must be followed for all of the above written assignments. Also, please proofread your papers as presentation and appearance do affect the paper grades. Please note do not use first person or contractions in your papers. If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please see me. The required format is the APSA author-date system that is detailed below.

1. Title page: this should include a title, your name, the class, and the date. The title page should not be numbered (but it should be your first or cover page).
2. Format: the body of your paper should be typed, double spaced, have one inch margins on all sides, use regular-sized font (10 to 12 point), and be consecutively numbered. Also, your paper should be stapled as binders or folders are unnecessary.

3. Citing: you must cite the source of any specific material or opinion that is not yours. Use quotation marks for direct cites, but try and paraphrase when possible (put into your own words, but still list the source). Please use the following in-text citation format: "Quote (Shay 2015, 20)." Where Shay is the author, 2015 is the publication date, and "20" is the page number if you are using a direct quotation.

The format for a paraphrase is the same:  
Paraphrase (William 2015, 18).

4. Structure: each paper should include a strong introductory paragraph as well as a thoughtful conclusion in addition to a well-developed body reflecting your research, analysis, and thought.
5. Sources: you may utilize journal articles, magazine articles, newspaper stories, and books as your primary sources (three for the proposal, eight for the term paper). You may use legitimate sources that have been retrieved electronically, but please try to obtain these in the PDF format. In addition, you may use your course readings and other sources of information (e.g., television broadcasts, the internet) as long as they are properly cited, but they do not count towards the required number of sources.
6. Bibliography: on a separate page at the end of each paper, list the sources that you used. For the journal, list your source(s) preceding your write-up for each event until you have all ten completed. The sources should be listed alphabetically by author's last name, should be unnumbered, double spaced within a source of more than one line, double spaced between sources, and for anonymous sources you may either write Anonymous or use the periodical's title as the author.

For journals, magazines, and newspapers:

Martinez, Ernesto. 2015. "The Politics of Greed in Venezuela." The London Times  
June 13, pp.11-12.

For books:

Chavez, Jose. 2014. Terror 's Path Through the Andes. New York: Avon Books.

For internet:

New Independence Party. 2014. "Survival in a China-Dominated Latin America?" November  
10, www.nip.org.