PP 366: Political and Economic Development in Latin America  
Fall 2013  
Thursday 4-7pm, McManus 31  
Claremont Graduate University

Professor Melissa Ziegler Rogers  
Office Hours: Thursday 2-4pm  
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Course Description: In this course we will read, analyze and critique important works on the politics of South America. This will include discussion of both the democratic and non-democratic periods in its history as well as the trends in economic development. Importantly, this course will specifically focus on South American democracy and its institutions of government. We will look at the functioning of these institutions and how they meet or fail to meet the demands and desires of their citizens. We will address consider how economic trends in the region have influenced and have been influenced by politics and vice versa.

Course Requirements: All students taking the seminar must do the assigned readings, write three 3-4 page response papers, complete a midterm and final exam, and participate in discussions. The response papers are short critical analyses of the readings; students will sign up for their choice of topics during the first seminar meeting. These critical reviews should focus your thoughts, prompt possible research topics, and guide our discussions. The papers should raise general questions about the readings as well as specific questions about the readings as well as specific questions about the readings under review. They should be thought-provoking. They can take on any aspect of the readings to be discussed that week; just be sure to analyze rather than summarize. The papers might critique or extend theories, consider applications to different cases, reexamine empirical evidence, etc. Students writing critical reviews will present their analysis (approximately 5 minutes) in seminar. To accommodate discussion, critical review papers are due 24 hours in advance of seminar, via email, to everyone enrolled.

The midterm and final exams will be essay questions meant to capture the important themes of the course. Students should integrate case knowledge learned in the course in their responses.

Grading Rubric  
Class Participation 15%  
Response Papers 25%  
Midterm Exam 25%  
Final Exam 35%

Readings: Most readings are journal articles available online on Sakai. Students may want to buy the following books

Week 1: Introduction to Latin American Politics (September 5)

Week 2 (September 12): Studying South America


Reading: Vanden and Prevost, Politics in Latin America, Chapter 1: “An Introduction to Latin America (As it Is)


Week 3 (September 19): Authoritarianism and the State


Week 4 (September 26): Transitions to Democracy


**Week 5 (October 3): Democratic Consolidation**


**Week 6 (October 10): Economics and Democracy**


Last 45 Minutes: *The Take* (1999)

**Week 7 (October 17): Accountability and Representation**


**Week 8 (October 24): Elections and Electoral Rules**


**Week 9 (October 31)- Midterm Exam**

Last Hour, *Our Brand is Crisis*

**Week 10 (November 7): Presidentialism**


**Week 11 (November 14): Legislatures**


**Week 12 (November 21): Political Parties**


**Week 13 (November 28): Federalism**


**Week 14 (December 5): Institutional Instability and Corruption**


Week 15 (December 12): Clientelism and Indigenous Politics


December 19- Final Exam