

following democratic principles contained in Bright Line Watch's public and expert surveys on democratic erosion.

In addition, each student will sign up to present at least one of the weekly readings during the semester. The student should prepare a 10-15 minute presentation that briefly summarizes the argument and raises important questions and criticisms for discussion. Each student is responsible for approximately 2 readings during the semester. A Google sign-up sheet is available.

Exams

There will be two in-class midterms (February 2, April 26). Both exams will be based on the assigned readings and class discussion.

Absences and Make-Up Policy

Make-up exams and assignments will be given only under the most exceptional circumstances. Exams will not be re-scheduled to accommodate other courses. Missed exams or assignments due to illness require a doctor's note.

When in-person classes resume, you are expected to attend each and every class in-person. However, if you are ill, we will make every attempt to allow you to participate in the class remotely.

Term Paper (Only for Students Taking the Course for "W")

Each student will choose a country and topic on which they will write a 10-12 page research paper. **To qualify for a W, you must meet each deadline:**

- 2/1** 2-3 paragraph statement of your research topic. Please include the question(s) that you want to focus on, the materials that you anticipate using, and your working hypotheses.
- 3/1** 1-2 page annotated bibliography. Please begin with a statement of your research topic and hypotheses and then briefly describe how each of the sources on your bibliography will contribute to your paper.
- 3/31** Last day to turn in required drafts.
- 4/26** Research Papers Due at the beginning of Class- LATE PAPERS W

Guillermo O'Donnell and Philippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions About Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Susan C. Stokes. 2001. *Mandates and Democracies: Neoliberalism by Surprise in Latin America*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Helmke, Gretchen. 2017. *Institutions on the Edge: The Origins and Consequences of Inter-Branch Crises in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press.

Articles

All articles are available via Dropbox for this course.

Weekly Class Schedule:

Week 1: Course Introduction (short class)

Thursday, January 13th:

Course Introduction and Presentation Assignments

Skidmore, Thomas and Peter Smith. 2005. "The Transformation of Modern Latin America: 1880's-1990's" in *Modern Latin America*. pages 42-68.

Week 2: Conceptualizing Democracy and Democratic Erosion

Tuesday, Janu

Week 3: Coups and Democratic Breakdowns

Tuesday, January 25th:

Latin American Weekly Report

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1973. "An Impossible 'Game': Party Competition in Argentina, 1955-1966" in *Modernization and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism*. Berkeley: IIS Publ.

Thursday, January 27th:

Valenzuela, Arturo. 1978. "The Move to a Socialist Society and the Erosion of the Political Center" in *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapter 4.

Week 4: Autocracy

Tuesday, February 1st:

Latin American Weekly Report

Additional Readings:

Magaloni, Beatriz. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. Vol. 296. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Thursday, February 3rd:

Negretto, Gabriel. "Authoritarian Constitution-Making: The Role of the Military in Latin America" *Constitutions in Authoritarian Regimes*. Edited by Tom Ginsburg and Alberto Siner. Cambridge University Press, 2014. pp. 83-110

Week 5: Transitions to Democracy I

Tuesday, February 8th:

Latin American Weekly Report

Week 9, March 8 & 10: Spring Break

Week 10: Accountability & Elections

Tuesday, March 15th:

Latin American Weekly Report

Thursday, March 31st:

Noam Lupu, “Brand Dilution and the Breakdown of Political Parties in Latin America.” *World Politics* 66, No. 4 (October 2014).

Gingerich, Daniel W. *Political Institutions and Party-Directed Corruption in South America: Stealing for the Team*. Cambridge University Press, 2013. Chapter 5.

Week 13: Presidential Systems

Tuesday, April 5th:

“W” Students Only: Papers are due the beginning of class today—NO EXCEPTIONS

Latin American Weekly Report

O’Donnell, Guillermo. “Delegative Democracy” *Journal of Democracy* 5(1):55-69.

Mainwaring, Scott. 1993. “Presidentialism, Multipartyism, and Democracy: The Difficult Combination” *Comparative Political Studies* 26: 198-228.

Thursday, April 7th:

Valenzuela, Arturo. 2004. “Latin American Presidencies Interrupted” *Journal of Democracy* 15(4).

Pérez-Liñan, Aníbal. 2005. “Democratization and Constitutional Crises in Presidential Regimes: Toward Congressional Supremacy?” *Comparative Political Studies* 38(1): 51-74.

Week 14: Democratic Erosion: Peru and Venezuela

Tuesday, April 12th:

Latin American Weekly Report

Helmke, Gretchen. *Institutions on the Edge: the Origins and Consequences of Inter-Branch Crises in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. Chapters 4 & 5.

Thursday, April 14th:

Charles D. Kenney. 2004. “Fujimori versus Congress and the Coup.” *Fujimori’s Coup and the Breakdown of Democracy in Latin America*. Chapter 6.

Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold, *Dragon in the Tropics: Hugo Chávez and the Political Economy of Revolution in Venezuela* (Brookings Institution Press, 2011), Pgs. 1-47.

Javier Corrales, “Authoritarian Survival: Why Maduro Hasn’t Fallen,” *Journal of Democracy* 31, No. 3 (July 2020): 39-53.

Week 15, April 19 & 21: Democratic Erosion: Brazil, El Salvador, Nicaragua

Tuesday, April 19th:

Latin American Weekly Report