

AS 360: Democracy in Latin America
Fall 2022
SNF Agora Institute
Johns Hopkins University

Professor Beatriz Rey

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Shaffer 302, Mondays 1:30pm-3:30pm

Office and office hours: Zoom

Course Website: www.beatrizrey.com/courses

“I worked so hard on books, but I endured them, I never actually used them, I never turned them against themselves. This is thinking.” – Elena Ferrante in *The Story of the Lost Child*

Course Objectives

This course explores the current challenges of democracy in Latin America. We will draw on frameworks that explain political and economic development in the region to understand contemporary issues such as polarization, populism, and authoritarianism. While the course will examine issues applicable to all Latin American countries, we will focus predominantly on Brazil and Chile. By the end of the course, students should develop analytical skills to think about democracy in the region through the lenses of institutions, interests, and ideas.

Attendance, Assignments and Grading

This course does not require a textbook. All readings will be provided on the course website. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned reading on time, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions. If you miss a class, you should secure class notes from another student and come to the next class prepared. There will be weekly paper assignments (to be submitted to me by email). Late papers will be penalized unless additional time is negotiated with the instructor. The final paper should be submitted by December 7th. Please note that guidance on reaction papers and final papers will be provided in the first day of class. Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Class participation: 30%

Reaction Papers (one each week): 20%

Final Paper: 50%

Total: 100%

Electronic Devices

Please do not use any electronic devices, including laptop computers, during class time.

Plagiarism

As per the university’s guidance, all students could be penalized even without knowing their school’s plagiarism policy. The university’s policy for undergraduates is available at <https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/policies-guidelines/undergrad-ethics/>. Please make sure you read it carefully.

Accommodations

The class will follow the university's policy for disability and religious accommodations. If you wish to submit accommodation requests, please reach out to the Office of Institutional Equity at <https://oie.jhu.edu/>.

Daily Course Schedule and Readings

Session 1 (October 31st) | Legacies: State and Nation Building

Echeverria, Esteban, 1871. "The Slaughter House" in *The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories*, Edited by Roberto Gonzalez Echeverria.

Centeno, Miguel Angel. 1997. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America." *American Journal of Sociology* 102:6, pp. 1565-1605.

Mazzucca, Sebastián L. 2017. "Critical Juncture and Legacies: State Formation and Economic Performance in Latin America." *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research* 15:1, pp. 29-35.

Gates Jr., Henry Louis. 2011. *Black in Latin America*. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Session 2 (November 7th) | Legacies: Political and Economic Development

The House of the Spirits (movie available on Vudu)

Baer, Werner. 1972. "Import Substitution and Industrialization in Latin America: Experiences and Interpretations." *Latin American Research Review* 7:1, pp. 95-122.

Williamson, John. 1990. "What Washington Means by Policy Reform." In *Latin American Adjustment: How Much Has Happened?* Washington, DC: The Institute for International Economics, pp. 7-20.

Mainwaring, Scott, Frances Hagopian and Aníbal Pérez-Liñán. 2005 *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America*. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Session 3 (November 14th) | State of Democracy Now

Check this series of [charts](#) and look at "[Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Compilation of Selected Indices](#)", by the Congressional Research Service, prior to class.

The Economist. 2022. "[Latin America's vicious circle is a warning to the West.](#)"

The Economist. 2021. "[Democracy is quickly eroding in Central America.](#)"

Freeman, Will. 2022. "[Latin America's Parliamentarism Problem.](#)" *Americas Quarterly*.

Stuenkel, Oliver. 2022. "[Chile's Rejection of the New Constitution is a Sign of Democratic Maturity.](#)" *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*.

Murillo, María Victoria. 2022. "[Latin America: Not as Polarized as You Think](#)." *Americas Quarterly*.

[What Happened to Brazil?](#) (2019). Three-part BBC documentary series.

Session 4 (November 28th) | Problems of Democracy: Political Parties

Mainwaring, Scott. 2018. *Party Systems in Latin America*. Chapters 1 and 2.

Samuels, David and Cesar Zucco Jr. 2018. "Partisans, Anti-Partisans, and Voter Behavior." In *Routledge Handbook of Brazilian Politics*.

Weyland, Kurt. 2021. "How Populism Corrodes Latin American Parties", *Journal of Democracy* 32: 4: pp. 42-55.

Session 5 (December 5th) | Problems of Democracy: Corruption

Blake, Charles H. and Stephen D. Morris. 2009. *Corruption and Democracy in Latin America*. University of Pittsburgh Press. Introduction.

Lopez Maya, Margarita. 2018. "Populism, 21st-Century Socialism and Corruption in Venezuela." *Thesis Eleven* 149(1): 57-83.

Da Ros, Luciano and Matthew Taylor. *Brazilian Politics on Trial: Corruption and Reform Under Democracy*. Chapter 2.

[Exporting Corruption: Beyond Brazil's Car Wash Scandal](#) (2018). 25 min.

(Virtual) Session 6 (Date TBD) | Problems of Democracy: Violence and Inequalities

Gonzales, Yanilda Maria. 2020. *Authoritarian Police in Democracy: Contested Security in Latin America*. Chapters 1 and 2.

Trejo, Guillermo and Sandra Ley. 2020. *Votes, Drugs, and Violence: The Political Logic of Criminal Wars in Mexico*. Introduction.

[Gangs of El Salvador](#) (2015). Documentary.

Busso, Matias and Julian Messina (eds.). 2020. [The Inequality Crisis: Latin America and the Caribbean at Crossroads](#). Sections 1 and 2.

Burns, Nick. 2022. "[Chile Could Become 'Plurinational.' What Does That Mean?](#)". *Americas Quarterly*.

Morisson, Judith A. 2015. "[Behind the Numbers: Race and Ethnicity in Latin America](#)." *Americas Quarterly*.