

**POLS*3080
POLITICS OF LATIN AMERICA
Department of Political Science
University of Guelph**

Fall 2020

**Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:50
Synchronous - Zoom**

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Overview

After a decade of high-growth levels guided by leftist governments (the so-called Left Turn), which saw a historic expansion of its middle class, Latin America seems to have entered a new historical phase marked by political change, including democratic reversals, and economic uncertainty. What accounts for this change of fortunes? This course answers this question by exploring the region's political development which has been guided by a historic attempt at establishing liberal democracy by its liberal elites.

Format and Requirements

The classes will be divided into a Lecture section and a Class Discussion section through Zoom. Students should feel free to raise any questions they might have at any time. All the readings cited in this syllabus are mandatory and thus subject to examination. I may occasionally recommend supplementary material. Students are expected to do the readings prior to class and come prepared for participation and discussion.

To enhance class discussions of contemporary issues, students should make it a habit to follow current events in Latin America through the use of news sources (some of which are recommended below).

The requirements of the course are as follows:

-In-class mid-term examination	TBA (25%)
-Book Review	TBA (10%)
-Research Essay	TBA (35%)
-Take-Home Final Exam	TBA (30%)

Readings

Books

1. Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost. 2018 (6th Edition). *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2. Castellanos Moya, Horacio. 2009. *The She-Devil in the Mirror*. New Directions.