

Argentina, Brazil, and Chile: Films and Politics of Democratization
PS 25 and SPAN 88
Amherst College
Fall 2008
As of 11/4/08

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Class Meetings: Lecture session: Tu 10-11:20 am, Chapin 201 Section Meetings: Thu 10-11:20 am, Chapin 203	

Description of the course

This team-taught course will examine processes of democratization in Argentina, Brazil and Chile (the ABC countries) through the interdisciplinary lenses of political science and film/cultural theory. By reviewing films, critical texts, cases, and causal arguments, we will explore the history of classic populist regimes, military-authoritarian regimes, transitions to democracy, and the challenges of enhancing the "quality" of democracy. This class is intended for political science students with an interest in Latin America and humanities, and for Spanish-language students with an interest in the social sciences.

Format

The course will be taught twice a week. One day a week, the entire class will meet in one room. The other day, the class will break into two discussion groups, one of which will be conducted entirely in Spanish

Spanish majors will be required to attend the Spanish-language discussion section, do some readings in Spanish and complete all their work in Spanish. Command of Spanish is required for students interested in receiving credit for their Spanish major. Prerequisite: Spanish 7 or consent of the instructor.

Political science students can enroll in either the English-language or the Spanish-language section. If they choose the Spanish-language major, they will need to fulfill the same requirements for Spanish major (see above).

This course fulfills requirements for the:

Political Science Major
Spanish Major
Five College Certificate in International Relations
Five College Certificate in Latin American Studies
Women and Gender Studies

Readings and Screenings

Be prepared to read approximately 60-70 pages per week and watch approximately 3-4 movies every two weeks. The readings will consist of historical narratives, arguments about causality, interpretative texts, and some fiction. The movies are productions entirely or partially from Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Many contain graphic language and images.

Most of the readings can be found in the books ordered for the course (see below) and a website that has been prepared by the Department of Political Science for your convenience. Books are available at the Jeffrey Amherst Bookshop; multiliths are available from the Department of Political Science (contact Ms. Theresa Laizer, Clark House, x2318).

The required books are available from the Jeffrey Amherst Bookstore:

Bolaño, Roberto. *Distant Star* (Spanish original available as a photocopy in the Spanish Department).
Domínguez, Jorge I. and Michael Shifter, eds. 2008. *Constructing Democratic Governance*, 3rd edition, Johns Hopkins University Press.
Kingstone, Peter R., ed. 2007. *Readings in Latin American Politics*. Houghton Mifflin.
Richards, Nelly. 2004. *The Insubordination of Signs*.

For more historical background on Latin America, you may want to consult (optional):

Skidmore, Thomas E. and Peter H. Smith. 2005. *Modern Latin America*. Sixth Edition. New York: Oxford University Press.
Bethell, Leslie, ed. 1990. *The Cambridge History of Latin America*, vols. 7 and 8. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

For Spanish Section only:

Feijoo, Cristina. 2001. *Memorias del Río Inmóvil*. Clarín X/Alfaguara (available in the Spanish Dept.)

Requirements:

Pop quizzes (four)	30%
Papers (four 2 ½ page papers)	40%
Attendance and Participation	30%

Late assignments will not be accepted and will count as a zero.

Two absences without a doctor's note will reduce your grade by one scale, i.e., from A to A-, and so on for every two absences.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. In addition, you are required to come to class having completed the readings for that class meeting. Should you not have the reading done that counts as a zero for the day.

Participation: Attendance is not the same as participation. Participation is the extent to which you make a *qualitative* contribution to the discussion in progress. It entails addressing the issues raised by your classmates and your professors, as well as raising your own issues, when relevant. We will never call on you to participate; it is ultimately your responsibility to be heard in class. The point is not to speak for the sake of speaking (or to impress muse), but rather to contribute to the conversation with a different or a supplementary perspective.

Lead Discussants: At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned to one of the various groups of lead discussants. On designated class meetings, lead discussants will be expected to participate more actively and be better prepared than the rest of the class. We will not call on you, but we will expect more participation from you. Lead discussants who raise their hand to make a comment or answer a question will have priority over other students. The list of assignments indicates what days each group is expected to take the lead.

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. Plagiarism entails borrowing ideas from others without attributing source. Recently, there has been a surge in plagiarism at Amherst and other colleges. We are on alert. Remember, you are expected to discuss (not restate) the ideas of other authors. There is no need to do outside reading for this class, but you still want to make sure that you are clear about the ideas that are yours and those that belong to others. When in doubt, indicate sources. You are strongly advised to read about plagiarism at Amherst on line: <http://www.amherst.edu/~dos/plagiarism/index.html>

Etiquette:

Please arrive punctually, but if you need to arrive late, that's better than not showing up. Do not sleep or chat with your neighbors. Raise your hand and wait for your turn to speak. Do not interrupt others, but feel free to interrupt us if we seem to be moving on to a new topic and you are not ready to move on. If you need to leave early, please let us know before the beginning of class.

Readings not contained in the books (available on the course website):

- Cohen, Youssef. 1987. "Democracy from Above: The Political Origins of Military Dictatorship in Brazil." *World Politics*, pp. 30-54.
- Hagopian, Frances. 2007. "Latin American Citizenship and Democratic Theory," in Joseph S. Tulchin and Meg Ruthenburg, eds, *Citizenship in Latin America*. Boulder, CO: Lynn Rienner Press.
- Holston, James, 2008. *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*. Princeton University Press, pp. 3-38, 271-314.
- MacDougall, David. 1998. *Transcultural Cinema*. Princeton University Press, pp. 231-278.
- Nelson, Alice. 2002, Prologue, p 9-16, Introduction, p 21-48, "Of Bodiless Spirits and the Transition to Democracy," p 193-219. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press.
- O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1986. "Toward an Alternative Conceptualization of South American Politics." In Peter F. Klarén, and Thomas J. Bossert, eds., *Promise of Development. Theories of Change in Latin America*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, pp. 239-275.
- Oppenheim, Lois Hecht. 1993. *Politics in Chile. Democracy, Authoritarianism, and the Search for Development*. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, pp. 91-113.
- Richard, Nelly. 2004. *The Insubordination of Signs: Political Change, Cultural Transformation, and Poetics of the Crisis*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Sikkink, Kathryn. 2004. *Mixed Signals: U.S. Human Rights Policy in Latin America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 79-105.
- Tandeciarz, Silvia R. 2007. "Citizens of Memory: Refiguring the Past in Postdictatorship Argentina. Publication of Modern Language Association 122, 1, pp. 151-169.
- Smith, Peter H. 2005. *Democracy in Latin America*, Oxford Univ. Press, pp. 73-106.
- Wiarda, Howard J., and Harvey F. Kline. 1996. "The Pattern of Historical Development." In Howard J. Wiarda, and Harvey F. Kline, eds., *Latin American Politics and Development*. 3rd ed., Boulder, Co.: Westview Press, pp. 15-40.
- Wynia, Gary W. 1992. *Argentina. Illusions and Realities*. Second Edition. New York: Holmes and Meier.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile: Films and Politics of Decentralization (as of 10/16/08)

No.	Date	Lead Disc.	Class Topic	Joint Class, Readings (Tuesdays)	PS Section (Thu)	Span Section (Thu)	Movie (S = Screening)
1	2-Sep	Tue		Intro			
		Wed					<i>La Historia Oficial</i>
2	4-Sep	Thu	1	Intro	Schmitter and Karl (1991) in Kingstone;	Corrales	Suárez
		Mon					<i>Orfeu Negro</i>
3	9-Sep	Tue	1	Intro	Colburn (2002) in Kingstone; Hagopian (2007: 11-35);		
		Wed					<i>Kiss of the Spider Woman(S)</i>
4	11-Sep	Thu	2	Intro	Holston (2008, Chapter 1).	Suárez	Corrales
		Mon					<i>Camila</i>
5	16-Sep	Tue	2	Traditional Elites	Wiarda and Kline (1996:15-40);		
		Wed					<i>Eva Perón</i>
6	18-Sep	Thu	3	Urban Poverty, Populism and Polarization		Corrales: Wynia (37-71)	Suárez: Torre
		Mon					<i>Pixote</i>
7	23-Sep	Tue	3	Urban Poverty, Populism and Polarization	Pinheiro (in Kingstone); MacDougall (1998:231-278).		
		Wed					<i>Machuca</i>
8	25-Sep	Thu	4	Urban Poverty, Populism and Polarization	Oppenheim (1993:91-113).	Suárez:	Corrales:
		Wed					No Movie (NM)
9	30-Sep	Tue	4	Militarism	O'Donnell (1986:239-275).		
		Wed					<i>Favela Rising</i>
10	2-Oct	Thu	5	Militarism	Cohen (1996). Holston Lecture	Corrales	Suárez:
		Mon					<i>El Proceso</i>
11	7-Oct	Tue	5	Militarism	Sikkink (2004:79-105).		
		Wed					<i>O Ano que meus país...(S)</i>
12	9-Oct	Thu	1	Militarism	Bolaño (1996:1-75).	Suárez:	Corrales:
	14-Oct	Tue		No Class			<i>O que é isso, companheiro (S)</i>
13	16-Oct	Thu	1	Militarism	Bolaño (1996:76-149).	Corrales	Suárez

		Mon						<i>Imagen Latente (S)</i>
14	21-Oct	Tue	2	Militarism	Bolaño (1996)			
		Wed						<i>Cautiva</i>
15	23-Oct	Thu	2	Militarism	O'Donnell and Schmitter	Suárez	Corrales:	
		Mon						<i>Death and the Maiden</i>
16	28-Oct	Tue	3	Democratization and Settling the Past	Przeworski			
		Wed						<i>Hijos</i>
17	30-Oct	Thu	3	Democratization and Settling the Past	Nelson, Alice (2002: 9-16; 21-48).	Corrales	Suárez	
		Mon						<i>Pinochet's Children (S)</i>
18	4-Nov	Tue	4	Democratization and Settling the Past	Nelson (193-234); Tandeciarz;			
		Wed						<i>Cidade de Deus</i>
19	6-Nov	Thu	4	Democratization and Settling the Past	Lagos (2001); Hagopian (2007:36-52).	Suárez	Corrales	
		Mon						
20	11-Nov	Tue	5	Democratization and Settling the Past	Arg (in Kingstone and in Domínguez/Shifter)			
		Wed						2nd PAPER
21	13-Nov	Thu	5	Democratization and Settling the Past	Chi (in Kingstone and in Domínguez/Shifter)	Corrales	Suárez	
		Mon						<i>Luna de Avellaneda</i>
22	18-Nov	Tue	1	Democratization and Settling the Past	Brazil (in Kingstone and in Domínguez/Shifter)			
		Wed						<i>Deuda</i>
23	20-Nov	Thu	2	Globalization and Market Economy	Corrales (in Dominguez and Shifter)	Suárez TBA	Corrales (Feijoo 1)	
	25-Nov	Tue		No Class				
	27-Nov	Thu		No Class		TBA	Feijoo 2	
		Mon						<i>Elite Squad</i>
24	2-Dec	Tue	3	Globalization and Market Economy	Suárez (forthcoming)	Corrales (TBA)	Suárez (Feijoo 3)	
		Wed						<i>No se lo digas a Nadie</i>
25	4-Dec	Thu	4	Sexual Identity	TBA			
		Mon						XXY
26	9-Dec	Tue	5	Sexual Identity	TBA			3RD PAPER