

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Course (MA/PhD)	: Ph.D.
Course No.	: AW646N
Course Title	: The Process of Political and Economic Restructuring in Latin America
Course Type (Core/Optional)	: Optional
Course Teacher	: Dr. Aprajita Kashyap
Credits	: 4 (Four)
Semester	: Winter
Contact Hours	: 4 per week

**Course Objectives**

The course would deal with historic and contemporary political and economic issues in Latin America from the latter half of the twentieth century and trace them to their present integration into world polity and economy. There would be a special focus on political restructuring (constitutional developments) and economic restructuring (neoliberalism, globalization and debt management). The consequences of the process of restructuring need to be examined that would comprise the social costs this restructuring has generated. In addition, attention would be given to the role of global, hemispheric and regional forces in shaping the Latin American political, economic and social developments and events.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, the students would be able to develop skills to have a nuanced understanding of comparative politics and economics within the Latin American region. Theoretical and conceptual foundations would be laid to inculcate critical reading, analysis and evaluation of available sources to be able to develop competency in the application of comparative methodologies in Latin America and India.

**Evaluation Methods**

Class participation (10%)

Sessional work (40%)

End-Semester Examination (50%)

**Course Content**

**1. Process of Political Restructuring**

- Democratic Transition: Patterns, Mechanisms and Processes
- Circumstances leading to Transitions--Domestic, Regional and International

- Post Transition Processes
- Civil-Military Equations

## **2. Constitutional Building Process**

- Constitutional Developments: New Constitutions
- Constitutional Reforms: Nature and Process of amendments
- Classification of Constitutions
- Latin American Constitutionalism

## **3. Economic Restructuring Process**

- Domestic and Global Economic Problems
- Debt Management; Employment; and Inflation
- Globalisation and New Development Agenda; Neo-liberalism
- International Economic Integration in Latin America: Trade Relations with Asia-Pacific

## **4. Social Costs of Economic Restructuring**

- Gender aspects in governance
- Poverty and Inequality
- Social Policy and Distributive Politics: CCTs- *Bolsa familia* (Brazil), *Progreso* (Mexico), *Solidario* (Chile)
- Educational Restructuring

## **Readings**

### **Theme I**

Galeano, Eduardo (1989), “Democracy in Latin America: Best Is That Which Best Creates”, *Social Justice*, 16(1), Issue 35: 119-126.

Karl, T. L. (1990), “Dilemmas of Democratization in Latin America”, *Comparative Politics*, 23(1): 1-21.

Munck, G. L. (2015), “Building Democracy . . Which Democracy? Ideology and Models of Democracy in Post-Transition Latin America”, *Government and Opposition*, 50(3): 364-393.

Pion-Berlin, D. and R. Martínez (2019), *Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians: Reforming Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Latin America*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

R. Mares, David (2018), *Civil-military Relations: Building Democracy and Regional Security in Latin America, Southern Asia, and Central Europe*, London: Taylor and Francis.

Remmer, K. L. (1985), “Redemocratization and the Impact of Authoritarian Rule in Latin America”, *Comparative Politics*, 17(3): 253-275.

Smith, P. H. (2005), *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Pérez-Liñán, A., and S. Mainwaring (2013), “Regime Legacies and Levels of Democracy: Evidence from Latin America”, *Comparative Politics*, 45(4): 379-397.

## **Theme II**

Jaquette, J. S. (2009), *Feminist Agendas and Democracy in Latin America*, Durham: Duke University Press.

Negretto, Gabriel and Javier Couso (2018), *Constitution-Building Processes in Latin America*, Stockholm: International IDEA Discussion Paper 3/2018.

Uprimny, Rodrigo (2011), “The Recent Transformation of Constitutional Law in Latin America: Trends and Challenges”, *Texas Law Review*, 89: 1587-1609.

Nino, Carlos Santiago (1992), “The Debate over Constitutional Reform in Latin America”, *Fordham International Law Journal*, 16 (3): 635-651.

Cobos, Felipe (2018), “The New Latin American Constitutionalism: A Critical Review in the Context of Neo-constitutionalism”, *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 43: 1-19.

Negretto, G. L. (2012), “Replacing and Amending Constitutions: the Logic of Constitutional Change in Latin America”, *Law and Society Review*, 46(4): 749-779.

Ríos-Figueroa, J. and A Pozas-Loyo (2010), “Enacting Constitutionalism: The Origins of Independent Judicial Institutions in Latin America” *Comparative Politics*, 42(3): 293-311.

Fitzgibbon, R. H. (1960), “The Process of Constitution Making in Latin America”, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 3(1): 1-11.

Baldi, C. A. (2017), “From Modern Constitutionalism to New Latin American Decolonial Constitutionalism”, *The CLR James Journal*, 23(1/2): 307-322.

## **Theme III**

Abel, C. and C.M. Lewis (2002), *Exclusion and Engagement: Social Policy in Latin America*. London: University of London, Institute of Latin American Studies.

Bonvecchi, A. and Carlos Scartascini (2020), *Who decides Social Policy?, Social Networks and the Political Economy of Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean*, New York: IDB

Bray, M. W. (1989), “Latin America’s Debt and the World Economic Crisis” *Latin American Perspectives*, 16(1): 3-12.

Daun, H. (2002), *Educational Restructuring in the Context of Globalization and National Policy*, New York: Routledge Falmer.

Harris, R. L. (2002), "Resistance and Alternatives to Globalization in Latin America and the Caribbean", *Latin American Perspectives*, 29 (6): 136-151.

Mesa-Lago, C. (1994), *Changing Social Security in Latin America: Toward Alleviating the Social Costs of Economic Reform*, Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner.

UNU -WIDER (2014), *International Economic Integration and Growth in Latin America*, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

Wolff, J. (2020), *What do We Know about Struggles over Neoliberal Reforms?: The Political Economy and the Contentious Politics of Stabilization and Structural Adjustment in Latin America and beyond*, Frankfurt: Peace Research Institute.

#### **Theme IV**

Piscopo, J. M. (2015), "States as Gender Equality Activists: The Evolution of Quota Laws in Latin America", *Latin American Politics and Society*, 57(3): 27-49.

Rosenthal, G. (1996), "On Poverty and Inequality in Latin America", *Journal of Inter-american Studies and World Affairs*, 38(2/3): 15-37.

Bucciferro, J. (2010), "Economic Restructuring and Poverty/Income Inequality in Latin America", *Consilience*, 4: 1-16.

Gasparini, L., and Cruces, G. (2013), "Poverty and Inequality in Latin America: A Story of Two Decades", *Journal of International Affairs*, 66(2): 51-63.

Torres, C. A. (2002), "The State, Privatisation and Educational Policy: A Critique of Neo-Liberalism in Latin America and Some Ethical and Political Implications", *Comparative Education*, 38 (4): 365-385.

Torres, C. A. and D. Schugurensky(2002). "The Political Economy of Higher Education in the Era of Neoliberal Globalization: Latin America in Comparative Perspective", *Higher Education*, 43 (4): 429-455.

Pavão, N. (2016), "Conditional Cash Transfer Programs and Electoral Accountability: Evidence from Latin America", *Latin American Politics and Society*, 58(2): 74-99.

Sugiyama, N. B. (2012), "Bottom-up Policy Diffusion: National Emulation of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Brazil", *Publius*, 42(1): 25-51.

Parker, S.W. and P.E. Todd (2017), "Conditional Cash Transfers: The Case of Progres/Oportunidades", *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55 (3): 866-915.