

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

Course (MA/PhD)	: Ph.D.
Course No.	: AW658
Course Title	: Contemporary Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean
Course Type (Core/Optional)	: Optional
Course Teachers	: Prof. Priti Singh and Dr. Aprajita Kashyap
Credits	: 4 (Four)
Semester	: Winter Semester
Contact Hours	: 4 per week

**Course Objectives**

The objective is to create awareness among the student about developments in Latin American politics and society since the 1990s. It focusses on the major issues confronting Latin American countries at the domestic, regional and international level from an International Relations (IR) perspective. It offers a better understanding of how the world views contemporary Latin America. It examines the major debates in the region such as trends in electoral politics and challenges to democracy, regional integration, identity politics, migration, narco-trafficking, poverty, income inequality and social policies, energy, resource extractivism and strategic concerns.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of Latin American political, economic and social development issues being discussed in IR; have a theoretical understanding of political processes; analyse the significance of events and developments in contemporary Latin America and its role in world politics. It would help the students acquire a multi-faceted perspective on Latin America.

**Evaluation Methods**

Class participation (10%);  
Sessional work (40%);  
End-semester Examination (50%)

**Course Content**

**1. Theoretical Approaches in International Relations to Understand Latin America**

- Realism
- Institutionalism
- Liberalism
- Constructivism
- Critical Approaches

**2. Political Issues**

- Changing Nature of Democracy: Categorisation as Full (Chile)/Flawed (Brazil and Argentina/ Hybrid (Honduras)/Authoritarian (Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua)
- Citizens' Participation/Engagement; Movements and Protests

- Regionalism: Regional Groupings such as CELAC, ALBA, UNASUR and PROSUR
- Border Disputes: Case studies (Argentina and Chile, Venezuela and Guyana, Chile and Peru, Nicaragua and Colombia)
- Global Politics: Participation in Inter-American and international fora; Regional Powers (Brazil) and Extra-regional Powers (China and US)

### 3. Economic and Environmental Dimensions

- Sustainable Development; Climate Change
- Regional Economic Integration: MERCOSUR, Pacific Alliance, CARICOM
- Trade and Foreign Investments (Emerging and Developed Economies)
- Latin American Multilateralism and India: BRICS, IBSA and BASIC

### 4. Strategic and Security Concerns

- Threat Perceptions in Latin America
- Migration
- Energy Security
- Terrorism and Human Rights; drug-trafficking
- Pandemic; Nuclear; and Space

## **Readings**

### **Theme 1:**

Hey, Jeanne A. K. (1997), "Three Building Blocks of a Theory of Latin American Foreign Policy", *Third World Quarterly*, 18 (4): 631-657.

Weyland, Kurt (2016), "Realism under Hegemony: Theorizing the Rise of Brazil", *Journal of Politics in Latin America*, 8(2): 143-173.

Siavellis, Peter (2004), "Democracy and Political Institutions in Latin America: Reconciling Approaches", *Latin American Research Review*, 39 (2): 275-290.

Martinez, Rodrigo ed. (2019), *Institutional Frameworks for Social Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Santiago: UNECLAC.

Long, Tom (2018), "Latin America and the Liberal International Order: An Agenda for Research", *International Affairs*, 94 (6): 1371-1390.

Preto, German Camilo (2020), "The Constructivist IPE of Regionalism in South America", in Ernesto Vivares (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook to Global Political Economy: Conversations and Inquiries*, New York: Routledge.

Quijano, Anibal et al. (2012), *Latin American Critical Thought: Theory and Practice*, Buenos Aires: CLACSO, Latin American Council of Social Sciences.

### **Theme 2:**

Remmer, K.L. (1992), "The Process of Democratization in Latin America", *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 27:3-24.

Malamud, Carlos and Rogelio Núñez (2021), “Latin American Democracy after a Year’s Pandemic”, *Strategic and International Studies*, Royal Institute. ARI 54/2021 (English version) - 12/5/2021

Ortiz, Román D. (2020), “The Return of the Generals? Civil-military Relations in Latin America at Times of Pandemic”, *Strategic and International Studies*, Royal Institute. ARI 141/2020

Legler, Thomas (2010), “Learning the Hard Way: Defining Democracy in Honduras”, *International Journal*, September: 601- 618.

Coker, Trudie (2014), “Dimensions of Democracy in Contemporary Venezuela”, *Social Justice*, 40 (4), Issue 134: 88-105, Special Issue: Latin America Revisited.

Briceño-Ruiz, J., Ribeiro Hoffmann A. (2021), “The Crisis of Latin American Regionalism and Way Ahead”, In: De Souza Guilherme B., Ghymers C., Griffith-Jones S., Ribeiro Hoffmann A. (eds.) *Financial Crisis Management and Democracy*, Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Briceño-Ruiz, J. (2010), “From the South American Community of Nations to the Union of South American Nations”, *Latin American Policy*, 1(2):208-229.

Al-Kassimi, K. (2018), “ALBA: A Decolonial Delinking Performance towards (western) Modernity – An Alternative to Development Project”, *Cogent Social Sciences*, 4(1):1-35.

Nolte, Detlef and Luis L. Schenoni (2021), “To Lead or Not to Lead: Regional Powers and Regional Leadership”, *International Politics*, 28 October 2021 (online)

Braveboy-Wagner, Jacqueline A (2021), *Venezuela Guyana Border Dispute: Britain's Colonial Legacy in Latin America*, New York: Routledge.

Kilroy, R. J. (2014), “Maritime and Territorial Boundary Disputes in Latin America: Regional Implications of the 2012 ICJ Ruling in Nicaragua v. Colombia”, *The Journal of Territorial and Maritime Studies*, 1(1): 91–111.

Briceño Ruiz, José and Isidro Morales (2017), *Post-hegemonic Regionalism in the Americas: Toward a Pacific-Atlantic Divide?*, New York: Routledge.

Petras, J. F. and H. Veltmeyer, (2019), *Neoliberalism and Social Movements in Latin America: Mobilizing the Resistance*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **Theme 3:**

Munck, R. and W. R. Delgado (2018), *Reframing Latin American Development*, New York: Routledge.

Ocampo, José Antonio and Jaime Ros (2011), *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Harrison, G. (2020), *Developmentalism: The Normative and Transformative within Capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Isbell, P. and K.N. García (2018), "Latin America's Interregional Reconfiguration: The Beginning or the End of Latin America's Continental Integration?", in Mattheis F. and A.Litsegård (eds.) *Interregionalism across the Atlantic Space*, United Nations University Series on Regionalism, Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Bulmer-Thomas, V. (2001), "Regional Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean", *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 20(3): 360–369.

Cypher, J. M., and T.D. Wilson (2015), "Introduction: China and Latin America: Processes and Paradoxes", *Latin American Perspectives*, 42(6): 5–26.

Koleski, Katherine, and Alec Blivas (2018), "China's Engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean", *U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission*, Staff Research Report.

Dussel, P. E. (2020), *China's Financing in Latin America and the Caribbean*, México, DF: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Economía.

#### **Theme 4:**

Mateos, Ribas et al. (2021), *Handbook on Human Security, Borders and Migration*, Massachusetts: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Hancock, Kathleen J. and Juliann Emmons Allison (2021), *The Oxford Handbook of Energy Politics*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Into, G. (2019), "Beyond Conflict and Struggle: The Continued Appeal of Extractivism in Latin America," *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 107:151-160.

Froehlich, A., et al. (2020), *Space Supporting Latin America: Latin America's Emerging Space Middle Powers*, Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Bandarra, L. (2019), "Towards a Global Zero for Nuclear Weapons: Three Lessons from Latin America", *German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA)*, 7(3).

Diamint, R. (2004), "Security Challenges in Latin America", *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 23(1): 43–62.

Singh, P. (2004), "Latin America's Security Concerns in the Emerging Global Order", *India Quarterly*, 60(1/2): 192–217.

Bustillo, I., and H. Velloso (2016), "Insecurity and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", *PRISM*, 5(4): 48–67.

Teiner, D. (2020), "Terrorism and Organized Crime in Latin America", *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 14(4): 118–154.

Jorge I. Domínguez et al. (2003), *Border Disputes in Latin America*, Washington DC: US Institute of Peace.