

# Latin American Political Parties

Boston University  
Political Science 509  
Spring 2012

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**Professor:** Taylor C. Boas

**Email:** tboas@bu.edu

**Office location:** 232 Bay State Rd., rm. 311B

**Office phone:** 617-353-4214

**Office hours:** Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:30

**Lecture location:** CAS B06B

**Lecture time:** Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-5

**Course site:** [http://blackboard.bu.edu/bin/course.pl?course\\_id=12sprgcaspo509\\_a1](http://blackboard.bu.edu/bin/course.pl?course_id=12sprgcaspo509_a1)

## Course Description:

U.S. political scientist E.E. Schattschneider once argued that “modern democracy is unthinkable save in terms of parties.” How does this claim apply to Latin America? This course will examine Latin American democracy through the lens of parties and party systems, looking at both historical origins and recent transformations. The first part of the course examines how the political incorporation of organized labor in the early twentieth century served as a “critical juncture” that set Latin American party systems on different paths of development. We will look at the emergence of hegemonic parties, populist parties, and working class parties, and how they shaped party system dynamics in their respective countries. The second part of the course asks whether market reforms of the 1970s and 1980s constitute a new critical juncture for Latin American party systems, altering the patterns that prevailed for most of the twentieth century. We will look at the transformation of labor-based parties, the reinvigoration of right-wing parties, the collapse of some countries’ party systems, the emergence of ethnic parties in the Andes, the persistence of patterns such as clientelism, and the recent success of leftist parties and politicians in Latin America. The empirical focus is on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela, with some additional material drawn from Bolivia and Ecuador.

I assume that undergraduate students enrolled in this course have taken previous courses in comparative politics or Latin American studies. I have assigned approximately 100 pages of reading per week, and some of it is challenging; students should be prepared to spend the necessary time doing course readings, taking notes, and preparing outlines outside of class.

Graduate students in political science or related fields will hopefully find this course to provide good preparation for their comprehensive exams and dissertation or thesis research. I have designed the course requirements for graduate students with these objectives in mind.

The course will be run as a seminar, meaning that you, rather than I, should be doing most of the talking. I will provide introductory mini-lectures during many weeks, but there will always be a substantial amount of time allotted for discussion. In order to participate in the discussion you need to have done the week's readings before class and come prepared with questions or comments. I may assign particular students or groups of students to give short presentations on the readings for each week.

### **Grade Breakdown: Undergraduate Students**

Attendance and participation: 15%

In-class midterm exam: 25%

Final paper: 30%

Final exam: 30%

### **Grade Breakdown: Graduate Students**

Attendance and participation: 15%

Final exam: 35%

Final paper: 50%

### **Required Readings**

There is one *required* book for this course. It is available for purchase in the bookstore, as well as from a variety of online retailers. In particular, I recommend [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) as a search engine for both new and used books.

Van Cott, Donna Lee. 2007. *From Movements to Parties in Latin America: The Evolution of Ethnic Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

All other required readings are available electronically as Mugar Library E-reserves (<http://library.bu.edu/search/p?SEARCH=Boas&submit=Search>). The password is po509. You can print these out or read them online, however you prefer.

The following book is *recommended* for purchase. We are reading five chapters from it; they will be available on e-reserves, but you might want to get the book instead. It has gone out of print, but used copies are available online, and you can also get it as a Kindle edition or Google e-book for a reasonable price.

Mainwaring, Scott, and Timothy R. Scully. 1995. *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

## **Midterm Exam (undergraduates)**

The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course. It will be closed-book and held in class.

## **Final Paper**

The final paper, due on the last day of class, will examine a topic of the student's choosing related to parties or party systems in Latin America. It may draw upon course readings but must also involve substantial outside research (that is, no more than one-third of the sources may be course readings—and I do not count sources thrown in gratuitously). The paper topic must be approved in advance; the due date for the proposed paper topic is listed below, in the schedule of course readings. Undergraduate papers should be approximately 10-12 double-spaced pages in length.

Graduate student papers should follow the above guidelines, but should be 25-30 double-spaced pages in length. In addition to writing papers that present an original argument based on empirical research, graduate students have the option of writing a research proposal, with an eye toward their own dissertation or thesis research.

## **Final Exam**

A final exam will be held during the scheduled exam period: Wednesday, May 9, 3-5 p.m. For undergraduates, the exam will be of a similar format to the midterm and will focus on material from the second half of the course, though material from the first half is relevant in terms of background and framing. For graduate students, the exam will cover all course material equally. The format of graduate exams is intended to simulate the Ph.D. qualifying exam, albeit shorter overall.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to do their own work and to accurately and honestly give credit for information, ideas, and words obtained elsewhere. Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly according to the Academic Conduct Code (<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/>); please review the website for examples of what counts as plagiarism so you know how to avoid it. If you have questions or concerns about how to properly cite outside sources, please let me know and I will be happy to assist.

The Internet makes it quite easy, and tempting, to cheat by copying and pasting material that you found online, or by buying a paper that someone else wrote. But it also makes it much easier to get caught. I have caught plagiarizers in the past and am always on the lookout. Don't do it. You will make the semester much better for both of us.

## Schedule and Required Readings

### Part I. Historical Origins

#### Jan. 17. Introduction

#### Jan. 19, 24. Overview and definitions of parties and party systems

Mainwaring, Scott, and Timothy R. Scully. 1995. "Introduction: Party Systems in Latin America." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Gunther, Richard, and Larry Diamond. 2001. "Types and Functions of Parties." In Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther, eds., *Political Parties and Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Coppedge, Michael. 1998. "The Evolution of Latin American Party Systems." In Scott Mainwaring and Arturo Valenzuela, eds., *Politics, Society, and Democracy: Latin America*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

#### Jan. 26, Jan. 31. Labor incorporation as a critical juncture

Collier, Ruth Berins, and David Collier. 1991. *Shaping the Political Arena: Critical Junctures, the Labor Movement, and Regime Dynamics in Latin America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Republished in 2002 by University of Notre Dame Press. Pp. 3-23, 59-65, 100-106, 161-172, 196-201, 314-315, 353-359, 360-367, 403-406, 469, 498-506, 507-512, 571-574, 609-610, 692-693.

#### Feb. 2, 7. Hegemonic parties and party systems: Mexico and Venezuela

Collier, Ruth Berins. 1992. *The Contradictory Alliance: State-Labor Relations and Regime Change in Mexico*. Berkeley: International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Chs. 2-3: "The Critical Juncture: Founding the Mexican Regime" and "The Legacy of Radical Populism: The Mexican Regime at Mid-Century."

Kornblith, Miriam, and Daniel H. Levine. 1995. "Venezuela: The Life and Times of the Party System." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

## **Feb. 9, 14. Populist parties: Peru and Argentina**

Graham, Carol. 1992. *Peru's APRA: Parties, Politics, and the Elusive Quest for Democracy*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Chs. 2-3: "APRA 1924-1968: Confrontation, Compromise, and Counterreform" and "APRA and the Military Docenio: The Stolen Revolution, 1968-1980."

Levitsky, Steven. 2003. *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 2: "Origins and Evolution of a Mass Populist Party."

McGuire, James W. 1995. "Political Parties and Democracy in Argentina." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

**NOTE: No class Feb. 21 (follow Monday schedule of classes).**

## **Feb. 16, 23. Working-class parties and polarization: Chile**

Valenzuela, Arturo. 1978. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Pp. 3-81.

Scully, Timothy R. 1995. "Reconstituting Party Politics in Chile" (pp. 100-122 only). In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

**Feb. 28. Midterm exam (undergraduates).**

## **Part II. Modern-Day Transformations**

### **March 1, 6. Market reform: A new critical juncture?**

Edwards, Sebastian. 1995. *Crisis and Reform in Latin America: From Despair to Hope*. New York: Oxford University Press. Ch. 3: "The Emergence of a New Latin American Consensus."

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

Roberts, Kenneth M. 2002. "Social Inequalities Without Class Cleavages in Latin America's Neoliberal Era." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36, 4: 3-33.

Coppedge, Michael. 2001. "Political Darwinism in Latin America's Lost Decade." In Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther, eds., *Political Parties and Democracy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

**March 6: Proposed paper topic due.**

**March 8, 20 (Spring Break in between). Transforming labor-based parties: Chile, Argentina, and Brazil**

Roberts, Kenneth M. 1995. "From the Barricades to the Ballot Box: Redemocratization and Political Realignment in the Chilean Left." *Politics & Society* 23: 495-519.

Levitsky, Steven. 2003. "From Labor Politics to Machine Politics: The Transformation of Party-Union Linkages in Argentine Peronism, 1983–1999." *Latin American Research Review* 38, 3: 3-36.

Samuels, David. 2004. "From Socialism to Social Democracy: Party Organization and the Transformation of the Worker's Party in Brazil." *Comparative Political Studies* 20, 10: 1-26.

Hunter, Wendy, and Timothy J. Power. 2007. "Rewarding Lula: Executive Power, Social Policy, and the Brazilian Elections of 2006." *Latin American Politics and Society* 49, 1: 1-30.

**March 22, 27. Reinigorating right-wing parties: Chile and Mexico**

Gibson, Edward L. 1992. "Conservative Electoral Movements and Democratic Politics: Core Constituencies, Coalition Building, and the Latin American Electoral Right." In Douglass A. Chalmers, Maria do Larmo Campello de Souza, and Atilio Boron, eds., *The Right and Democracy in Latin America*. Westport, CT.: Greenwood Publishing.

Garretón, Manuel Antonio. 2000. "Atavism and Democratic Ambiguity in the Chilean Right." In Kevin J. Middlebrook, ed., *Conservative Parties, the Right, and Democracy in Latin America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Loaeza, Soledad. 2003. "The National Action Party (PAN): From the Fringes of the Political System to the Heart of Change." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Christian Democracy in Latin America: Electoral Competition and Regime Conflicts*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

**March 29, April 3. Party system collapse: Venezuela and Peru**

Tanaka, Martín. 2006. "From Crisis to Collapse of the Party Systems and Dilemmas of Democratic Representation: Peru and Venezuela." In Scott Mainwaring, Ana María Bejerano,

and Eduardo Pizarro Leongómez, eds., *The Crisis of Democratic Representation in the Andes*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Dietz, Henry A., and David J. Myers. 2007. "From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru." *Latin American Politics & Society* 49, 2: 59-86.

Weyland, Kurt. 1996. "Neopopulism and Neoliberalism in Latin America: Unexpected Affinities." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 31, no. 3: 3-31.

Ellner, Steve. 2003. "The Contrasting Variants of the Populism of Hugo Chávez and Alberto Fujimori." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 35: 139-162.

### **April 5, 10. Ethnic parties: Bolivia and Ecuador**

Van Cott, Chs. 1, 3, 4.

### **NOTE: April 12: No class, instructor out of town**

### **April 17, 19. Persistent patterns**

O'Donnell, Guillermo. 1993. "On the state, democratization and some conceptual problems: A Latin American view with glances at some postcommunist countries." *World Development* 21, 8: 1355-1369.

Mainwaring, Scott. 1995. "Brazil: Weak Parties, Feckless Democracy." In Scott Mainwaring and Timothy R. Scully, eds., *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Hilger, Tina. 2008. "Causes and Consequences of Political Clientelism: Mexico's PRD in Comparative Perspective." *Latin American Politics and Society* 50, 4: 123-153.

### **April 24, 26. The rise of a new Left?**

Levitsky, Steven, and Kenneth M. Roberts. 2011. "Latin America's "Left Turn": A Framework for Analysis." In Steven Levitsky and Kenneth M. Roberts, eds., *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Etchemendy, Sebastián, and Candelaria Garay. 2011. "Argentina: Left Populism in Comparative Perspective, 2003–2009." In Steven Levitsky and Kenneth M. Roberts, eds., *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Ellner, Steve. 2008. *Rethinking Venezuelan Politics: Class, Conflict, and the Chávez Phenomenon*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Ch. 7: "The Chávez Movement's Top-Down and Grassroots Approaches."

Loeza, Soledad. 2007. "Mexico's Disappointment." *Constellations* 14, 3: 409-425.

**May 1. Conclusion and review; final papers due in class**

**Wednesday, May 9, 3-5 p.m.: Final exam**