



# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

School of Arts and Sciences  
2015-16

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Course Number</b> POL 380	<b>Course Title</b> Politics of Latin America		
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b> 2016	<b>Summer Semester</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b> 3
<b>Name of Instructor</b> Chad Rector			
<b>Meeting Day, Time, and Room Number</b> Tuesdays and Fridays 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Gailhac Hall, Room 2011			
<b>Final Exam Day, Time, and Room Number</b> May 6, noon-2:30 p.m., Gailhac Hall, Room 2011			
<b>Office Hours, Location, Phone</b> Ireton G108. Tuesdays and Fridays 10:20 to 10:50 a.m. and 1:50 to 2:30 p.m. and many other times by appointment via <a href="mailto:cal.chadrector.net">cal.chadrector.net</a>			
<b>E-mail and Web Site</b> <a href="mailto:crector@marymount.edu">crector@marymount.edu</a> instructor: <a href="http://www.chadrector.net">www.chadrector.net</a>   course: <a href="http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/380">http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/380</a>			
<b>Course Description</b> Examines the systems of government of countries in Latin America – including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America – and their relations with each other and with major countries outside the region. Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in POL 102 or POL 103, a grade of C or better in POL 250 or any other WI course, or permission of instructor. Liberal Arts Core/University Requirements Designation: GP, SS-2, WI. (3)			

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By accepting this syllabus, you pledge to uphold the principles of Academic Integrity expressed by the Marymount University Community. You agree to observe these principles yourself and to defend them against abuse by others. Items submitted for this course may be submitted to TurnItIn.com for analysis.

### STUDENT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

For the benefit of current and future students, work in this course may be used for educational critique, demonstrations, samples, presentations, and verification. Outside of these uses, work shall not be sold, copied, broadcast, or distributed for profit without student consent.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS**

Please address any special challenges or needs with the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students seeking accommodations for a disability must complete the required steps for obtaining a Faculty Contact Sheet from the Office of Student Access Services (SAS). Students are then responsible for meeting with their instructors at the beginning of the semester to review and sign the Faculty Contact Sheet and develop a specific plan for providing the accommodations listed. **Accommodations cannot be granted to students who fail to follow this process.** Appointments with the SAS director can be scheduled through the Starfish "Success Network" tab in Blackboard. For more information, check the SAS website, e-mail [access@marymount.edu](mailto:access@marymount.edu), or call **703-284-1538** to reach the SAS director or an academic support coordinator.

### **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION POLICY**

When students are absent due to a crisis situation or unexpected, serious illness and unable to contact their individual instructors directly, the Division of Student Affairs can send out an Emergency Notification. To initiate an Emergency Notification, students should contact the **Division of Student Affairs 703-284-1615** or [studentaffairs@marymount.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@marymount.edu). Emergency Notifications are **NOT** appropriate for non-emergency situations (e.g. car problems, planned absences, minor illnesses, or a past absence); are **NOT** a request or mandate to excuse an absence, which is at the sole discretion of the instructor; and are **NOT** a requirement for student absences. If a student contacts instructors about an emergency situation directly, it is not necessary to involve the Division of Student Affairs as arrangements are made to resolve the absence.

For non-emergency absences, students should inform their instructors directly.

### **ACCESS TO STUDENT WORK**

Copies of your work in this course, including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios, may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment, and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will be submitted anonymously.

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY ON WEATHER AND EMERGENCY CLOSINGS**

Weather and Emergency closings are announced on Marymount's web site: [www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu), through **MUAlerts**, area radio stations, and TV stations. You may also call the **Weather and Emergency Hotline at (703) 526-6888** for current status. Unless otherwise advised by local media or by official bulletins listed above, students are expected to report for class as near normal time as possible on days when weather conditions are adverse. Decisions as to inclement closing or delayed opening are not generally made before 6:00 AM and by 3:00 PM for evening classes of the working day. Emergency closing could occur at any time making **MUAlerts** the most timely announcement mechanism. **Students are expected to attend class if the University is not officially closed.** If the University is closed, course content and assignments will still be covered as directed by the course instructor. Please look for communication from the course instructor (e.g., Blackboard) for information on course work during periods in which the University is closed.

## 1. BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE

Examines the systems of government of countries in Latin America – including Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America – and their relations with each other and with major countries outside the region. Prerequisite: a grade of C or better in POL 102 or POL 103, a grade of C or better in POL 250 or any other WI course, or permission of instructor. Liberal Arts Core/University Requirements Designation: GP, SS-2, WI. (3)

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course students will be expected to:

Course-specific objectives. As a result of taking the courses, students will be able to:

- Identify the major characteristics of contemporary oligarchic, military, democratic, and transitional governments, popular movements and political parties, export- and state-led strategies for economic development and modernization, and programs for regional integration in Latin America,
- Critically evaluate competing interpretations of the causes of rapid economic modernization and the relationship between economic modernity and political change,
- Apply broader theories of regional and civil security to the particular challenges states and societies face in Central America and the Northern Andes,
- Engage with contemporary debates about the causes and consequences of hemispheric economic integration and modernization, and
- Write and present well-reasoned, argumentative essays that defend a specific thesis about particular issues in Latin American politics.

Advanced social science (SS-2) objectives. In this course, students will:

- Critically evaluate competing social scientific theories of institutions, social movements, and intercultural relationships by applying them to specific political contexts,
- Apply conceptual ideas from outside of political science, including models of corruption, trade policy, and social identity to practical questions of economic and political development, and
- Develop research projects that apply concepts in social science to contemporary societies, using a combination of primary and secondary sources.

Global perspective (GP) objectives. In this course, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the internal logic of the workings of political systems outside of the United States,
- Develop an understanding of similarities and differences in representation and decision-making in countries outside the U.S.,
- Develop a deeper understanding of how societies relate to each other through regional political cooperation, and
- Complete a “global perspectives project” that demonstrates, through a combination of critical engagement with social science concepts and original research, at least one of the above.

Writing intensive (WI) objectives. In this course, students will:

- Produce written work appropriate to the discipline through a process that involves drafting and revision based on feedback,
- Produce focused and coherent texts that address a specific audience, move effectively between generalizations and details, make honest use of sources, and engage complex ideas without distortion,
- Produce texts that show careful attention to fluent sentence structure, grammatical correctness, and proper documentation, and
- Identify a suitable subject for scholarly inquiry in the discipline, analyze appropriate primary and secondary source materials, and support a focused thesis or argument in a clear and coherent product.

## 3. TEACHING METHOD

Classes are a combination of lecture and discussion; student participation is a requirement. All course information is posted on the web site - <http://worldpolitics.marymount.edu/380>. In spring 2016 I have fixed office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:20 to 10:50 a.m. and 1:50 to 2:30 p.m. (on each of those days that classes are scheduled). At those times please

feel free to come by my office without an appointment. I also have rotating office hours at least 4 hours per week (usually much more); to meet me at one of those times you must make an appointment. Use the calendar at [cal.chadrector.net](http://cal.chadrector.net) to see the schedule and make an appointment. (You must be logged in to gmail or Marymount email. Scroll to the right to see future weeks.) All meetings are in my office, Ireton G108.

#### **4. GRADING POLICY**

Friday, February 12, 2016, is the last day to withdraw from a class without academic record.

Friday, March 18, 2016, is the last day to withdraw from a class with a grade of W.

Course grades will be based on a weighted average of the following:

- Exam #1. 10%. Identify and explain any 5 concepts, from a list of 10. List of terms will be posted here. 45 minutes of class time. February 16.
- Exam #2. 10%. Identify and explain any 5 concepts, from a list of 10. List of terms will be posted here. 45 minutes of class time. March 4.
- Term paper. 70%. Term papers are at least 4000 words long (about 16 pages), and explore in depth a political issue involving Latin America. Components of the assignment are due in several steps, emailed to me. Assignments are due at midnight at the end of the specified day. See here for a lot more detail about the term paper assignment.
  - Topic paragraph. 5%. February 21.
  - Summaries of four scholarly articles. 5% each, total 20%. March 2, 7, 17, and 20.
  - Case study draft. 5%. April 7.
  - Initial draft. 15%. April 14.
  - Final draft. 20%. May 8.
  - Class presentation. 5%. As assigned, in late April.
- Peer reviews. 10%. Two reviews (5% each) of other student drafts, following an assigned format. As assigned, in mid-April. You may write up to 2 additional high-quality reviews, for up to 3% in extra credit points each.

Extra credit:

- Class participation. Students may earn up to 5% for sustained, constructive contributions to class discussions.
- DC event. 5% for a first event and 3% for a second. Attend an event in the DC area on the subject of Latin America and write a blog post summarizing your experience. Specific instructions about attending and reporting on events are here. Posts must be well-written to receive credit; I will send back poorly-written posts for revisions before they are accepted. You will receive 5 extra credit points for one event and post, and 3 points for a second. All blog posts submitted by the day of the final exam. (Blog posts are kept private by default, but we may make selected posts public by mutual agreement.)
- Extra peer reviews. Students who turn in a complete draft on time may complete up to two additional peer reviews for up to 3% each. Email me within four days of turning in your draft to get an extra credit assignment. I will give specific due dates with each assignment, but in any case these must be completed no later than April 20.
- Wikipedia edit. Properly edit a wikipedia article to include a sensible reference to a properly-cited scholarly article (one you used for one of your summaries) and email me a link to the log. See this tutorial or attend the class session of POL 250 in the library classroom on Wednesday March 16 starting at 10:15 a.m. Up to 4% for a well-formatted edit. This must be completed by April 20.

Two additional mandatory course requirements do not count for any points:

- Map test. A test of basic Latin American geography. Fill in the names of selected countries on a blank map. Spelling doesn't count. The test will be administered at the beginning of each class starting the second week. You may take the test as many times as you wish until you pass, up to once per class meeting including the second exam. Any student who fails to pass the test by the second exam will automatically fail the course. The answers to the map test are here.
- Attendance. Any student who misses 7 or more class sessions will automatically fail the course.

Papers will be marked down one point for each day (or fraction of a day) late. Any assignment or paper that is turned in on time may be rewritten for partial credit, except for the draft and final paper. Students who miss an exam will have one chance to take a makeup and will be marked down unless they have a valid medical or university business excuse. Students will not be penalized for missing a class assignment for a recognized religious holiday. Exams will be written in class without books, notes, computers, phones, audio devices, or other aids.

I do not, in general, grant extensions on major assignments. If you think you have gotten an extension from me but you do not have something in writing from me that specifically says that, then you probably haven't. Like, if you tell me in person that your paper is going to be late, and I say "okay" or I give you advice on how to complete it, that isn't me giving you an extension – that's me saying that I understand that your paper is going to be late. It is only an "extension" (a promise from me that you may turn in a paper late without being penalized) if I have said so, explicitly, in an email message.

There is no such thing as an "excused" absence. If you tell me that you are going to miss a class and I say "okay" or something polite like that, the absence will still count toward one of the 7. If you feel like you have a legitimate reason why you will miss 7 or more class sessions during the semester I suppose you could try talking it through with me.

I may, at my discretion, check any written assignments for plagiarism at any time during or after the semester, using electronic or other means. Students found violating the Marymount principles of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be formally charged through the University's Academic Integrity process. By enrolling in the course you acknowledge that you have reviewed the University's standards of academic integrity.

## **5. CLASS SCHEDULE**

### 1. Introduction

January 12  
Mexico

January 15  
Argentina  
Read: Smith, Introduction and Chapter 1

January 19  
Research design  
Read: Baglione, Chapter 1

January 22  
History  
Read: Smith, Chapter 2

### 2. Institutions

January 26  
Militaries  
Read: Smith, Chapter 3

January 29  
Hierarchy  
Read: Smith, Chapter 4

February 2  
Presidentialism

February 5  
Democratic stability  
Read: Smith, Chapter 5

February 9  
Elections

February 12  
Proportionality  
Read: Smith, Chapter 6

February 16  
Exam #1 and paper topic discussion

### 3. Representation

February 19  
Party strategies  
Read: Smith, Chapter 7

[Topic paragraph due February 21](#)

February 23  
Parties and ideology  
Read: Díez, Part 1

February 26 - meet in library  
Interlude: finding articles

March 1  
Representation  
Read: Díez, Part 2

[Article Summary #1 due March 2](#)

March 4  
Exam #2 and paper organization discussion

[Article Summary #2 due March 7](#)

Spring Break

### 4. Research papers

March 15  
Theory  
Read: Baglione, Chapters 3 and 4

Article Summary #3 due March 17

March 18  
Evidence

Article Summary #4 due March 20

March 22  
Organization  
Read: Baglione, Chapters 5 through 8

Easter Break

5. Inclusion

March 29  
Poverty  
Read: Smith, Chapter 8

April 1  
Economic equality  
Read: Smith, Chapter 9

April 5  
Political economy

Case study draft due April 7

5. Term papers

April 8  
Organization workshop

April 12  
Writing workshop

Initial draft due April 14

April 15  
Draft review

April 19  
Draft review

April 22  
Presentations

April 26  
Presentations

April 29  
Presentations

May 6, noon-2:30  
Presentations

[Term paper due May 8](#)

## 6. REQUIRED TEXT

There are three assigned books for the course:

- Peter Smith. Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective, 2nd Edition. 978-0195387735.
- Lisa A. Baglione. Writing a Research Paper in Political Science: A Practical Guide to Inquiry, Structure, and Methods. 978-1483376165.
- Jordi Díez. The Politics of Gay Marriage in Latin America: Argentina, Chile, and Mexico. 978-1107099142.