

POLI 134D Topics/Latin American Politics
Fall 2020

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10:00AM-10:50AM Remote Classroom.

CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE RECORDED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO
STUDENTS ASYNCHRONOUSLY

Video and audio recording, or other personal information, will only be used for instructional purposes. UC San Diego does not allow vendors to use this information for any other purposes. Recordings will be deleted when no longer necessary. If an impropriety is suspected, however, the recording may become part of the student's administrative disciplinary record. If you do not want to be recorded during class, please send me your questions and/or comments by email.

Politics, Policies, and Economic Prosperity in Latin America

Prof. Sebastian M. Saiegh
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Remote Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00PM-3:00PM

Course Description

This course focuses on the political economy of Latin America. We will examine the development policies followed by the countries in the region. Following a review of simple economic models of growth, we will analyze the track record of Latin American economies. Finally, we will discuss how public policies and political institutions affect economic prosperity.

Format

The class will meet three times per week for the duration of the quarter. Each meeting will be devoted to a new theme/idea . Every topic presented in class is paired with one **required** reading. The lectures will review the concepts discussed in these readings, but should be taken neither as a *duplication* nor as a substitute for them. In other words, you should not assume that because you came to class, you can skip the readings, and/or that because you made the readings you may not attend the lectures.

Assignments

Each week students are expected to read the materials. The formal examinations consist of a mid-term exam in week five and a final exam at the end of the term. The midterm exam accounts for 40% of the final grade and the final exam accounts for 60% of the final grade. Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under **very pressing circumstances**, they will be discouraged.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity. Students in this course are expected to comply with UCSD's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. In particular, plagiarism is considered a dishonest practice and a serious academic offense. Hence, there will be a zero tolerance policy with respect to these practices: any student violating the obligation of academic integrity during the term will automatically fail the class. Copies of the current version of the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, also commonly referred to as the Academic Dishonesty Policy, may be found on the Academic Senate webpage: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/AcademicIntegrity/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

Disabilities. If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other instruction modifications, you need to notify both me and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify the OSD, call (858) 534-4382 to schedule an appointment.

Course Materials

Readings for weeks 1-3 are drawn from the following book :

Easterly, William. 2002. *The Elusive Quest for Growth*. Cambridge: MIT Press (hereafter: Easterly).

The book is available for purchase online. It can also be accessed online through the UCSD Library System (Restricted to UCSD IP addresses):

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucsd/detail.action?docID=3338892>

Additional readings come from articles, as well as book chapters. All of these readings can be accessed online on the course's **Canvas** webpage.

Course Outline and Readings

Week 0 (October 2)

October 2: Introduction

Week 1 (October 5 - October 9)

October 5: The Quest for Prosperity

October 7: Mechanics of Growth I (Easterly, ch. 2)

October 9: Mechanics of Growth II (Easterly, ch. 3)

Week 2 (October 12 - October 16)

October 12: Increasing Returns (Easterly, ch.8)

October 14 Technological Change (Easterly, ch. 9)

October 16: Contextual Factors (Easterly, ch.10)

Week 3 (October 19 - October 23)

October 19: Politics, Policies and the Economy

Krueger, Ann O. 1990. "Government Failures in Development," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol 4, 3: 9-23.

October 21: Bad Governments (Easterly, ch. 11)

October 23: Predatory Governments (Easterly, ch. 12)

Week 4 (October 26 - October 30)

October 26: Latin America's track record

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2013. *Three decades of uneven and unstable growth*. Santiago, Chile: United Nations.

October 28: Populism

Dornbusch, Rudiger and Sebastian Edwards. 1991. "The Macroeconomics of Populism," in Dornbusch and Edwards (Eds.) *The Macroeconomics of Populism in Latin America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, ch. 1.

October 30: The Washington Consensus

Birdsall, Nancy, Augusto de la Torre and Felipe Valencia Caicedo. 2011. "The Washington Consensus," in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 4.

Week 5 (November 2 - November 6)

November 2: The 2000s

Stallings, Barbara, and Wilson Peres. 2011. "Is Economic Reform Dead in Latin America? Rhetoric and Reality since 2000," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 43: 755-786.

November 4: Review Session

November 6: Midterm Exam

Week 6 (November 9 - November 13)

November 9: Policy Outcomes under the Left

Biglaiser, Glen. 2016. "Mandate and the Market: Policy Outcomes under the Left in Latin America," *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 48: 185-204.

November 11: NO CLASS - VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

November 13: Policy Outcomes under the Right

Biglaiser, Glen, and Ronald J. McGauvran. 2018. "Political Mandate and Clarity of Responsibility: Economic Policies under Rightist Governments in Latin America," *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 53: 250-272.

Week 7 (November 16 - November 20)

November 16: The *Middle Income* Trap

Foxley, Alejandro. 2016. "Inclusive Development: Escaping the Middle-Income Trap," in Alejandro Foxley and Barbara Stallings (eds.) *Innovation and Inclusion in Latin America*, New York: Palgrave.

November 18: Sustaining Prosperity

Holland, Alisha C., and Ben Ross Schneider. 2017. "Easy and Hard Redistribution: The Political Economy of Welfare States in Latin America," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 15: 988-1006.

November 20: Informal Economy

Tokman, Victor E. 2011. "Employment: The Dominance of the Informal Economy," in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 30.

Week 8 (November 23 - November 27)

November 23: COVID-19 in Latin America I

Nuguer, Victoria and Andrew Powell (coords.). 2020. *Policies to Fight the Pandemic*. Washington, D.C.: IADB, Chapter 1.

November 25: COVID-19 in Latin America II

Bottan, Nicolas, Bridget Hoffmann, and Diego Vera-Cossio. 2020. "Coronavirus Survey Results Show Big Impacts, Linkages between Labor Markets and Inequality," IADB Blog May 8.

November 27: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 9 (November 30 - December 4)

November 30: Policymaking I

Carola Fuentes, Carola, and Rafael Valdeavellano. 2016. "Chicago Boys," Chile: Consejo Nacional de Television.
Available at: <https://docuseek2.com/cart/product/1105>

December 2: Policymaking II

Carola Fuentes, Carola, and Rafael Valdeavellano. 2016. "Chicago Boys," Chile: Consejo Nacional de Television.
Available at: <https://docuseek2.com/cart/product/1105>

December 4: Policymaking III

Ardanaz, Martín, Carlos Scartascini and Mariano Tommasi. 2011. "Political Institutions, Policymaking, and Economic Policy in Latin America," in Ocampo and Ros (Eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American Economics*. New York: Oxford University Press, Ch. 3

Week 10 (December 7 - December 11)

December 7: Institutions

Kingstone, Peter. 2011. *The Political Economy of Latin America*, Ch. 5.

December 9: Final Overview

December 11: Review Session

Final Exam: Friday December 18, 2020