

 <p data-bbox="142 443 561 558"> 2021 Latin American Politics (GS) POLI SCI 379-001C OSH Sprg 2021 </p>	<p data-bbox="899 136 1273 178" style="text-align: center;">Political Science 379</p> <p data-bbox="740 222 1451 327" style="text-align: center;">Latin American Politics (NW) (SS) (GS)</p> <p data-bbox="727 369 1321 401">Professor Druscilla Scribner, Political Science</p> <p data-bbox="727 443 1256 474">Mondays from 3pm to 6pm in Sage 1232</p>
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Course Description

This course is an analysis of the governmental institutions, political process and political cultures of Latin America and explores issues of democracy and development in Latin America. We focus on the nature and limitations of democracy in the region, as well as long-standing regional and global issues that affect democratic political development: market-oriented economic reforms, social inequality, climate change, political violence, corruption, and drug trafficking. Political Science 101 recommended. **3 credits**

This course meets in person (face-to-face)

This course is **designated a “Global Scholar” course** and may count toward the achievement of a Global Scholar Designation on your transcript. Global Scholar courses build on the knowledge, skills and perspectives that you gained in your USP Global Citizenship courses. *Global Citizenship and Global Scholar courses are designed to provide students with the knowledge of nations, cultures, or societies beyond the U.S.; the recognition of how interaction, interdependence, and inequity among diverse geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped historical and contemporary global challenges and opportunities; and the skills needed to engage with the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex, interdependent, and changing world.*

My office hours are from 8:30am to 10:00am Tuesdays and Thursday during Spring Semester. These are virtual drop in hours on *Microsoft Teams*. I am also available by appointment - just email: scribned@uwosh.edu.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Analyze how different states within Latin America respond to economic, political, and social challenges
- Appreciate how diverse human ideas and traditions have shaped political culture and organization in the countries of study
- Articulate how domestic level politics affects, and is affected by, regional and global events and ideas
- Compare and contrast the political systems of the countries explored in the course, paying particular attention to historical, political, economic, geographical, and moral aspects of governance in each country
- Demonstrate your critical thinking, writing, speaking and analytical skills in global and comparative context

- Identify forms and of sources inequities inherent in social and political power structures in the Latin American context
- Recognize similarities and differences in the historical evolution of Latin American countries

Assessing student learning

There are multiple assignments and activities associated with this course as well as a midterm and final exam. Some of these activities will be completed in class and others will be completed outside of class. Major assignment and exam dates are indicated in the syllabus.

Course Materials

Textbook and other readings: Our main book in this course is Politics of Latin America - The Power Game, Seventh Edition (2020) by Harry Vanden and Gary Prevost. You can pick it up at the University bookstore. We will utilize a secondary text book as well titled Understanding Latin American Politics (2018) by Gregory Weeks. These chapters are provided for you directly in Canvas. Additional required research articles and primary source excerpts are also provided for you on Canvas. You need only purchase the single book.

Canvas. We will use Canvas extensively for class. Set up your Canvas notifications so you don't miss anything! Canvas does not play that well with Apple. So be sure you are accessing Canvas through Chrome (not firefox, and not safari). Canvas only supports some file types (again, not Apple) - so save yourself a lot of headache by using Word (.DOC or .DOCX) and .PDF and and NOT .pages; and use .MP4 for video and not .MOV. Canvas has a calendar feature that shows your *assignments* created through canvas with due dates. Some assignments may not be in the calendar because they don't have a due date (so just be aware).

Do you want to learn how to use Canvas like a pro?

- **Check out the [Canvas Guides](#)** before spending a lot of time struggling to figure out how to do something. There are videos and step-by-step guides to help you as you use Canvas. You can also learn more about the Canvas app available for iOS and Android devices.
- **Check out this [mini course](#):** enroll in this canvas course and it will show up like your other courses in Canvas on your dashboard and is a good resource to have at your finger tips.

Course Delivery Format in the time of Covid

We are a small class and we expect to **meet in person once a week**. If you (or I) need to participate online at times during the semester because you, or I, are in quarantine or isolation, or for other reasons, we will work it out! Otherwise, we follow normal campus attendance policies and processes for any absences.

Mask Up! Classroom Mask Requirements:

- All students are required to wear an appropriate mask that covers their mouth and nose when they're in the classroom.
- They must also maintain appropriate physical distancing from their classmates and adhere to additional expectations communicated by the instructor or posted in the classroom.
- UWO procedure dictates that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, an instructor cannot begin class until all students are wearing a mask properly. If a student is non-compliant with the masking policy and refuses to leave the classroom promptly when requested, the instructor is required to cancel class.

- Students responsible for class cancellation for these reasons will be referred to the Dean of Students office, and the student will be unable to attend class until they meet with the Dean of Students. The student may be dropped from the class by the Dean of Students.

Disinfecting Workspace in Classrooms:

- Students will disinfect their workspace prior to the start of each class.
- Upon entering the classroom, students will go to get a disinfectant wipe from the canister in the room. They will use the wipe to clean the arms of the chair and the work surface being used. If the chair is not fabric, student may choose to wipe the seats and backs of the chairs as well. Wipes should be tossed into the garbage receptacle in the room.
- **Eating and drinking is prohibited in classrooms during the Spring 2021 semester - we have a long class, and we'll take some breaks!**

What if? What if you don't feel well, or your roommate has a positive test result, or you have a positive test result, or you are told to quarantine, or you have to go home to help your parents, etc.? You might have to participate virtually or miss class. As soon as you know you will miss class; let me know! We want to be sure you don't fall behind and that everyone has the best semester possible. See this link for [COVID-19 Resources for Students](#). Keep open the lines of communication and be prepared to be flexible! Remember, missing class is missing a week of the semester.

Tips for doing well in this class:

- **Do your reading before** the class meeting for which it is assigned and be prepared to discuss the material and ask questions
- **Come to class** – really! We will do a lot of work together in-class. Students with poor attendance tend to do poorly. I do keep track of your attendance; but it is not part of your grade - it's just expected.
- **Interact with your peers:** the best learning comes when you work with each other, it's not enough to just to just complete the content or come to class. Push yourself to meaningfully engage with others.
- **Bring your readings and notes to class** with you so that you can participate fully in these in-class activities and assignments. You may bring a tablet or laptop to access your readings and course materials during group work.
- **Take notes on your reading**, keep a list of key terms and definitions (particularly from the textbook), and write down questions you may have while reading. I highly recommend taking hand written notes.
- **Listen actively and take great notes!** You can maximize what you learn in all your classes if you: 1) use active listening skills; 2) take clear, effective notes during class discussion and/or lecture; and 3) review your notes within 24 hours of taking them.
- **Observe common sense classroom etiquette.** Treat others with respect, and be respectful of, and open to, differing opinions and attitudes.
- **Come see me in office hours** and/or communicate with me about issues, difficulties, absences etc. as they come up. If you are struggling or are not doing as well as you would like to be doing, come talk to me; we can discuss strategies to improve and what further assistance you might need.

Time and Study Expectations

This course meets once a week for 3 hours - each class meeting represents a full week of the semester. The "rule of thumb" expectation is that students spend about 2 hours of study time outside of class for each hour we spend together inside of class – that's 3 hours a week of class time, and about 6 hours a week on preparing for class. Some students will need more study time, and some less. Note that we cover A LOT each week. So spread out your class preparation efforts - it will be too much to do right before class.

Excused absences, make-ups and late work: The university has a policy for excused absences (university events, illness, family emergency, etc.). For an extended absence, the Dean of Students can help you with an “out of class letter.” If you seek an out of class letter, you should also contact me so we can make plans to accommodate your absence. I always accept late work, but 5% is taken off the grade automatically by Canvas for each day the item is late; I will not give you lower than a D for late work, however. Keep in mind that partial credit is better than no credit - zeros seriously impact your grade. So always do your work, even if it is late!

Assignments and Grading

Assignments: There are multiple assignments associated with the course content. Some of these will be completed individually before class and then discussed in class; others may be completed cooperatively in-class; and some will associated with your major research paper. You will find that your assignments appear in your Canvas calendar by due date.

Early Alert: In the fifth week of class, IF your grade in the course is below a C-, you will receive an email from the Registrar’s Office letting you know. Pay attention to this email, it has lots of information about support services. You should seek out additional help (from me or others) if you are getting below a C and/or if you are not doing as well as you would like to be doing. We can discuss strategies to improve and what further assistance you might need.

Grading: I will typically grade and return assignments within seven (7) days of the due date. If this changes due to unusual circumstances, I'll let you know via announcements.

The components of your final grade are:

Geography Test	5%
Current event assignments	15%
Checking for understanding assignments	15%
Reading research together and other in-class assignments	15%
Research Paper and related assignments	30%
Final Exam	20%

You may check your assignment grades on Canvas at any time. If something doesn't look right, or you have any questions just contact me! Your final grade is calculated by Canvas using the UW Oshkosh Default Grading Scheme:

100%	< 93%	< 90%	< 87%	< 83%	< 80%	< 77%	< 73%	< 70%	< 67%	< 63%	< 60%
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. As a UW Oshkosh student, it is your responsibility to be informed about what constitutes academic misconduct, how to avoid it and what happens if you decide to engage in it. [Check out these resources on the Dean of Students website.](#)

Political Science Department statements/policies

Office Hours: The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus. When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor's icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy. Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark my availability as "busy" (a red dot). We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help. Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. [More information can be found here.](#)

Concerns or Grievances: The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Note to Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

Changes: If substantive changes are made to this course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available (see our schedule below)

Campus resources

Campus Resources: In the University Studies Program (and at UWO generally!), we want you to be successful and there are many resources on campus dedicated to your academic and personal success. [Click for a full list of resources available to you on campus.](#)

Students with Disabilities: UW Oshkosh strives to create inclusive learning environments. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. For more information, visit the [Services for Students with Disabilities website.](#)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion statement: Diversity drives innovation, creativity, and progress. At the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, the culture, identities, life experiences, unique abilities, and talents of every individual contribute to the foundation of our success. Creating and maintaining an inclusive and equitable environment is of paramount importance to us. This pursuit prepares all of us to be global citizens who will contribute to the betterment of the world. We are committed to a university culture that provides everyone with the opportunity to thrive.

Disclosure statement: “Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>.”

Course Schedule

The course is scheduled by week on Canvas. There is a dedicated module for each week that lays out our plans for that week with links to all the readings and assignments. If (when) anything changes to our schedule or plans during the semester, it will be communicated to you via our Canvas course announcements (**so be sure to sign up for notifications of announcements!**); the module(s), assignments, etc. will be updated to reflect any changes.

A basic schedule is provided here to give you a sense of the whole semester with an outline of textbook reading and the dates of major assignments. Additional contemporary research articles, primary documents, and news & analysis resources are included in each week's module on Canvas.

- [Week 1: Introduction to Latin American Politics - Historical Patterns of Power](#) (Feb 1)
 - V&P Ch 1, 2, 3
 - Weeks Ch 1
- [Week 2: Neighbors to the North and West](#) (Feb 8)
 - V&P Ch 11
 - Geography Test
- [Week 3: Economic Development](#) (Feb 15)
 - V&P Ch 7
 - Weeks Ch 4
- [Week 4: Mexico](#) (Feb 22)
 - V&P Ch 12
 - Current Event Assignment
- [Week 5: Democracy, Authoritarianism, Corporatism and Populism](#) (March 1)
 - V&P Ch 8
 - Weeks Ch. 3
- [Week 6: Brazil and Race](#) (March 8)
 - V&P Ch 14
 - V&P Ch 4
 - Current Event Assignment
 - Paper topic cue
- [Week 7: Power, Institutions, and Actors](#) (March 15)
 - V&P Ch 9
 - Annotated Bibliography Due
- [Week 8: Argentina and Gender](#) (March 29)
 - V&P Ch 13
 - V&P Ch 5
 - Current Event Assignment
- [Week 9: Chile and Religion](#) (April 5)

- V&P Ch 15
- V&P Ch 6
- Current Event Assignment
- Film Analysis Due
- [Week 10: Resistance and Revolution](#) (April 12)
 - V&P Ch 10
 - Paper draft outline due
- [Week 11: Central American Countries: Guatemala in Comparison](#) (April 19)
 - V&P Ch 20
 - Weeks Ch 6
 - Current Event Assignment
- [Week 12: Andean Countries: Bolivia in Comparison](#) (April 26)
 - V&P Ch 18
 - Weeks Ch 8
 - Current Event Assignment
 - Paper Progress report
- [Week 13: Venezuela](#) (May 3)
 - V&P Ch 17
 - Current Event Assignment
 - Paper Draft Due
- [Week 14: Research Presentations and Final](#) (May 10)
 - Research Presentation (Monday)
 - Final exam (Wednesday)
 - Final paper due (Friday)