

**Political Science 4403
Latin American Politics
Spring Semester 2003**

**Dr. Paul Masters
Office: Pafford 125
Office Hours: MW 12-2; 3:30-5:30**

One Required Book:

Howard J. Wiarda and Harvey F. Kline (eds.) Latin American Politics and Development (Fifth edition)

Grading System:

- 75% - There will be three exams each counting 25% of your final grade. These exams will be a combination of essays and short answers. Students should know the material from both the lectures and the reading assignments.
- 25% - There will be a 10-page term paper on a topic of your choice related to the study of Latin America. This is a formal research project including: typed, double-spaced text, footnotes and bibliography. All topics must be approved by the professor. The paper is due three weeks before the last day of classes.

Absence Policy:

Regular class attendance is necessary in order to pass this course. Any student missing class more than five times will be dropped from the course for excessive absences. All excuses are considered the same.

Lectures:

- 1) The Context of Latin American Politics
- 2) Political and Economic Development
- 3) The Role of the State, Interest Groups and Political Parties
- 4) The Giants of South America (Argentina and Brazil)

1st Exam: This exam will cover lectures 1-4 and chapters 1-7 in the textbook.

- 5) The Other Countries of South America (Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador)
- 6) Mexico

2nd Exam: This exam will cover lectures 5 and 6 and chapters 8-16 in the textbook.

- 7) Central America (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama)
- 8) The Spanish Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic)

3rd Exam: This exam will cover lectures 7 and 8 and chapters 17-24 in the textbook.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate an appreciation of the issues of unity (languages, religion) and diversity (ethnicity, levels of economic development) that have a major impact in the area. Students will be expected to describe and explain the many problems facing Latin America as one area as well as a system of over twenty different nation-states.