

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	MA International Development
FHEQ Level:	7
Course Title:	The Political Economy of Development in Latin America
Course Code:	DEV 7404
Course Leader:	Dr Christopher Wylde
Student Engagement Hours:	200
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
Semester:	FALL & SPRING
Credits:	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores the dynamics, challenges and prospects of development practice and theory in Latin America, both historically and in the 21st Century. Beginning with the late 19th Century liberal *belle epoch* era the course maps the development trajectory of Latin America through the ISI period into the military dictatorships of the mid-20th Century into the return to democracy, and finally the rise of left and left-of-centre democratic regimes in the 21st Century. At each stage fine grained empirical analysis is complemented with the theoretical models and strategies of each development experience, combined with concrete case studies into specific Latin American countries.

Prerequisites: MA International Relations and MA International Development students only

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop an analytical understanding of key themes and concepts informing the political economy of development in Latin America;

- To examine major theoretical explanations and academic debates relating to the political economy of development in Latin America;
- To apply theory in evaluating the progress in the implementation of different development strategies in Latin America;
- To identify exemplary case studies in Latin America and to critically evaluate their history and contemporary practices in implementing different development strategies.

Programme Outcomes:

LEVEL 7 A, B, C, D, E, G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the main theoretical approaches in the political economy of development in explaining the strengths and weaknesses of a range of Latin American development experiences
- Respond in a critical and innovative way to the normative concerns informing the political economy of development in Latin America
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply theoretical knowledge to analysis of the means and mechanisms of the political economy of development in Latin America
- Design and undertake substantial research in the area of the political economy of development in Latin America, while critically reflecting on the different theoretical and methodological tools
- Engage with and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence in the area of the political economy of development in Latin America
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information regarding the political economy of development in Latin America, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective communication

Indicative Content:

- Liberalism and informal empire in Latin America: From independence to the 20th Century
- Dependency Theory and practice in Latin America (ISI)
- Military Dictatorship and bureaucratic-authoritarianism

- From dictatorship to democracy: The rise of neoliberalism in Latin America
- The political economy of development of the Pink Tide
- Different case studies from specific Latin American countries, such as Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia etc.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Texts:

- Black, Jan K., (2005) *Latin America, its problems and its promise : a multidisciplinary introduction* (Boulder: Westview Press)
- Bulmer-Thomas, V. (2014) *The Economic History of Latin America Since Independence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- Hellinger, Daniel C. (2011) *Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at last?* (London: Routledge)
- Kirby, P. (2003) *Introduction to Latin America: 21st Century Challenges* (London: Sage)
- Skidmore, T. and Smith, P. (2005) *Modern Latin America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)
- Wylde, C. (2012) *Latin America after Neoliberalism* (Basingstoke: PalgraveMacmillan)

See syllabus for complete reading list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

