The Politics of Economic Transformation in Latin America

I. About this Class

This course explores the politics of economic transformation in contemporary Latin America. The first part of the class examines the state-led strategies of development that characterized the region in the middle decades of the 20th century. The focus then shifts to the wave of free-market, neoliberal economic reforms and globalization that swept Latin America in the 1980s and 1990s. Particular emphasis is given to dramatic challenges to neoliberalism and globalization, such as the Zapatista rebellion in Mexico and the recent political resurgence of the left across the region. Countries discussed in depth include Mexico, Cuba, and Peru. In addition to providing a substantive understanding of the political economy of development in Latin America, this course aims to expose students to basic conceptual and analytic tools for understanding the interaction of political and economic forces.

II. Requirements

There are four requirements for this course:

1. In-class mid-term (25%)
2. Take-home final exam (30%)
3. A 10-15 page research paper (30%)
4. Class participation (15%)

Late research papers and take-home exams will be penalized. Regarding class participation, students will be evaluated on a) attendance, b) contributions to class discussions, c) and contributions to class exercises.

III. Readings

A pack of course readings is available at Allegra Print and Imaging on Thayer Street. Most of the readings are in the course pack, and it is recommended that you purchase the pack. The following two books are also required; they are available for purchase at the Brown University Bookstore:


IV. Schedule and Reading Assignments

1. Patterns of Development in Latin America: An Overview
   - Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America* (prologue; and chapter 2) [Reader #1]
   - Green, *Silent Revolution* (introduction; and chapter 1)

2. The Rise of the Developmental State: Dependency and Inward-Oriented Industrialization

   **Introduction: The Dependencia Theorists**
   - Lehmann, *Democracy and Development in Latin America* (chapter 1) [Reader #2]
   - Gunder Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment” [Reader #3]
   - Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America* (pp. 11-18; and pp. 225-83) [Reader #4]

   **Comparative Perspectives on ISI: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru**
   - Skidmore, “Comparing Argentina and Brazil” [Reader #5]
   - Cardoso, “Associated Dependent Development” [Reader #7]
   - Stepan, “The State and Foreign Capital” [Reader #8]
   - Collier, “Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model” [Reader #9]
   - Documentary: “Mexico: From Boom to Bust, 1940-1982”

3. From State to Market: The “Lost Decade” and the Turn to Neoliberalism

   **The Crisis of the 1980s: Toward a New “Consensus”**
   - Yergin and Stanislaw, *The Commanding Heights* (pp. 231-269) [Reader #13]
   - Edwards, *Crisis and Reform in Latin America* (pp. 1-10; and Table 3-2) [Reader #14]
People on the Move: Immigrants and Refugees
-Fernández Kelly and Portes, “Continent on the Move” [Reader #17]
-Handelman, Mexican Politics (pp. 157-61) [Reader #18].
-Escobar Latapi, “The Connection at Its Source” [Reader #19]
-Documentary: “Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization”

4. Challenges to the Neoliberal Model

Introduction
-Green, Silent Revolution (chapters 4, 6 and 7)

Peasant Rebellion: The Zapatista Uprising in Mexico
-Collier, Basta! (entire book)
-EZLN, “First Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle” [Reader #20]
-McKinley, “Solution to a Stalled Revolution” [Reader #21]
-Documentary: “The Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas”

Resurgence of the Left in Latin America: Is the Pendulum Reversing?
-“Year of Elections,” pp. 4-17, and 21-50 [Reader #22]
-Finnegan, “Leasing the Rain” [Reader #23]
-Castañeda, “Latin America’s Left Turn” [Reader #24]
-Dominguez, “Bush Administration Policy” [Reader #26]
-Hakim, “Is Washington Losing Latin America?” [Reader #27]
-Castañeda and Navia, “The Year of the Ballot” [Reader #28]
-Castañeda and Navia, “New Leaders, New Voices” [Reader #29]

5. Wrapping Up
-Green Silent Revolution (chapters 8 and 9)

**** Research Paper Due, Monday, May 12, 5pm.****

**** Take-Home Exam Due, Friday, May 16, 5pm.****


