

POLS 490: LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN POLITICS

Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Neil S. Williams (he/him)	Time: M W 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Email: shaun.williams@louisiana.edu	Place: Mouton Hall, Room 208

Course Pages:

1. <http://www.neilswilliams.com/teaching.html>
2. <https://moodle.louisiana.edu/>
3. <https://www.perusall.com/>

Student Hours: 12:00-2:00pm Thursday in Mouton Hall 118, or by appointment ([link to Bookings page](#)).

Required Texts:

- None

Objectives: This course is designed as an introduction to the politics of Latin America and the Caribbean. Given that Latin America is a diverse region, instead of learning about each country in isolation, topics such as racism, discrimination, social exclusion, and inequality will serve as lenses through which we comparatively examine the history, politics, and economics of the region. This course will also introduce students to the basics of social science research. Students should leave this course with greater familiarity in understanding and communicating social science research, as well as how to better analyze these issues on their own.

Perusall: All readings and lecture slides will be available on [Perusall](#). Perusall is a cool e-reader which allows for collaborative annotation of readings and videos with both me and your peers. Assignment due dates and reminders are also included in Perusall to help you keep track of readings. It is free to create an account. After you have done so, our course can be accessed by entering the code **WILLIAMS-FW2AR**.

Important Dates: Below are important test and due dates. Note that they, as well as everything else in the syllabus, may be changed as the semester con

First Half of Perusall Annotations due	Monday, March 6 th , 2023
Project Proposal due	Monday, March 6 th , 2023
Midterm Due	Wednesday March 15 th , 2023
Annotated Bibliography due	Friday, April 7 th , 2023
Second Half of Perusall Annotations due	Monday, May 1 st , 2023
Final Paper due	Tuesday, May 2 nd , 2023 by 11:59 P.M.

Grading

Late work will lose 10% off per day and I reserve the right to give a 0 after more than 3 days with no valid excuse.

- **Attendance: (5%)**
- **Participation: (20%)** Participation will be evaluated in multiple ways. Active participation implies paying attention in class, engagement with the material and with your fellow student colleagues. Please come prepared to class having read and willing to discuss the assigned material. Keep in mind these points as you read:
 1. What is the main point or argument?
 2. What evidence do they use to support their argument?
 3. Is there contradicting evidence?
 4. How does the author's argument relate to the other content from the course?

Participation will also be evaluated by your comments, annotations, and responses to the readings, videos, and content on Perusall. The **participation breakdown** is as follows:

- **In-class participation:(50%)**
- **Perusall annotations: (50%)**
- **Midterm: (25%)** The midterm exam will be delivered electronically and will cover content up until this point. Although this exam will be open-note and book, I **HIGHLY** recommend studying before-hand.
- **Final Research Project: (50%)**

The final project will encompass multiple parts over the course of the semester. The goal of this project is to research more deeply into a single topic in a particular context/contexts and examine its causes, effects, and specific details. Also, be creative and choose something that is of interest to you!

 - **Project proposal: (10%)**: 1-2 page proposal of your project idea with a description of your main points.
 - **Annotated Bibliography: (15%)**: 8-10 of your main **ACADEMIC** sources that will be used in your project. Include brief descriptions of the source's theory, methodology, and application to your argument and paper.
 - **Research Paper: (75%)**: Research paper related to Global Political Institutions. The paper should cover or structure around the following pieces with regard to your topic:
 - * Introduction
 - * Background
 - * Theory and Expectations
 - * Method
 - * Results
 - * Conclusion/Discussion

Grade Scale

A		>= 90.00
B		80.00 - 89.99
C		70.00 - 79.99
D		60.00 - 69.99
F		<= 59.99

Academic Honesty *“The University holds that all work for which a student will receive a grade or credit shall be an original contribution or shall be properly documented to indicate sources. Abrogation of this principle entails dishonesty, defeats the purpose of instruction, and undermines the high goals of the University. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Students shall be assumed to know the acceptable methods and techniques for proper documentation of sources and to avoid cheating and plagiarism in all work submitted for credit, whether prepared in or out of class.”*(From [University of Louisiana Lafayette page on Academic Honesty.](#)) Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and if discovered will be appropriately punished, including with the reserved right to give a 0 for the assignment(s). For more information about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or intellectual dishonesty, consult me or the university web page.

Disability Resources: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 337-482-5252 or visit the ODS office in the Agnes Edwards Hall, room 126. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with their instructor to make appropriate arrangements for accommodations.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to visit the Counseling and Testing Center page with tips on the [Mental Health & Wellness Resources](#) page. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- Make sure to seek help when needed. FREE counseling is available to you at the University Counseling and Testing Center. For more information, please contact the office at 337-482-6480, counseling@louisiana.edu, or stop by the Saucier Wellness Center (OK Allen Hall).

Technology: I permit laptops and other devices such as Kindles and iPads if they are being used for class-related purposes. If you are off-task (Facebook, Instagram, Myspace, Tik Tok, Neopets, Club Penguin, etc.) while on these devices, it will be deducted from your participation grade.

Coronavirus Information for Students**Fall 2022 Overview****Vaccinations Required**

UL Lafayette students are required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, a physician's certi-

Contact me in good time for deadlines on make-up work.

fication that the vaccine is medically contraindicated, or a written dissent. Learn more about the vaccination requirement.

Boosters are strongly encouraged.

Face masks recommended on campus

The University's Face Covering Policy was recently amended to recommend, but not require, that everyone wear face coverings in all indoor settings and outdoors while on University property.

A department or unit may require all individuals wear face coverings over their mouths and noses if it is determined to be necessary during a specific face-to-face course, in a specific classroom, laboratory, and/or private office/workspace, or other areas.

Additional exemptions and face covering guidelines are outlined in the policy. [Read the Face Covering Policy](#) on the University Policies website.

Courses to return to original delivery methods, employees to return to normal work schedules

The transmission rate of COVID-19 remains high in the Acadiana region and throughout the state, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Louisiana Department of Health. However, the University is seeing a decline in positivity rates among its students and employees.

This decrease, combined with the University's comprehensive testing protocols, is enabling a return to normal course delivery methods and operations. Classes that transitioned to remote learning at the start of the spring semester will begin to transition back to their original course delivery methods beginning Monday, Feb. 7. All courses should have returned to their original modes of instruction by Monday, Feb. 21. Students should check Moodle and with their professors for more details regarding when their classes will transition back.

In-person student organization events, including meetings, socials, and service projects, will continue to be allowed on and off campus provided masks are worn and proper social distancing can be maintained. Additionally, intramural sports will resume.

COVID-19 testing available on campus

COVID testing is available by appointment at Student Health Services on campus.

See a [list of other local COVID-19 testing sites](#) from the Louisiana Department of Health.

University's COVID-19 testing strategy As of April 7, testing of asymptomatic University employees and students (regardless of vaccination status) is suspended.

Stay home if you do not feel well.

Students

Students who feel ill should stay home and call Student Health Services at (337) 482-1293 to schedule an appointment. Students are required to report illness or a known COVID-19 exposure [via the UL Lafayette Student Quarantine and Isolation form](#).

View pdfs of the CDC's latest quarantine and isolation guidelines and what to do if you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Staff and Faculty Members

As a reminder, staff and faculty members who test positive for COVID-19 must contact their supervisors and complete the COVID-19 positive test reporting form. Additionally, faculty and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must complete the COVID-19 exposure reporting form.

Reporting forms must be completed by faculty and staff who work on campus or remotely, and by those who are on leave awaiting test results.

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Yellow indicates important information

1 Week 1: Foundations and Overviews

Wednesday, January 11th, 2023

- Introductions
- Review Syllabus

2 Week 2: History and Legacies I

Monday, January 16th, 2023

- *Reminder*
 - **MLK DAY NO CLASS**

Wednesday, January 24th, 2022

- *Before class*
 - Bodenheimer, Rebecca. “What is Latin America? Definition and list of countries.”
 - Geography of Latin America. *Neil Hokanson*.
 - Brief Political History of Latin America. 2021. *Crónica Panamericana*.

3 Week 3: History and Legacies II

Monday, January 23rd, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Dr. Lauren Kilroy-Ewbank, “Mesoamerica, an introduction,” in Smarthistory, September 12, 2017, accessed August 21, 2022,
 - “Tenochtitlan: A Retelling of The Conquest”. 2022. *Throughline*.

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Legrás, Horacio. 2016. “Slavery in Latin America.” *The Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*: 1–7.
 - Barbados: the First Slave society
 - The Sugar Plantations of British Barbados
 - “Haitian Revolution”. *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*.
 - **Optional**: “A Short History of Slavery in the Caribbean.” *The Guardian* 2017.
 - **Optional**: “History of Latin America - Disorder and caudillismo”. *Britannica*
 - **Optional**: The Haitian Revolution - Documentary (2009).

Note that the schedule is tentative and can be changed.

4 Week 4: Caribbean Futures and Identities

Monday, January 30th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Duncan, Natasha T., and Dwayne Woods. 2007. “What About Us? The Anglo-Caribbean Democratic Experience.”
 - “‘The Time Has Come’: Barbados Casts Off the Queen as Head of State, and Others May Follow”. 2021. *The New York Times*.
 - Clegg, Peter. 2015. “Shadows Cast Over Democracy in the Caribbean.”
 - **Optional:** Calls for Drax Hall to be opened to public as Barbados becomes a republic
 - **Optional:** Quinn 2015 - Introduction - revisiting Westminster in the Caribbean

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “How the 19th-century flow of indentured workers shapes the Caribbean”. 2017. *The Economist*.
 - Ramcharitar, Raymond. 2020. “Ethnic Anxiety and Competing Citizenships in Trinidad and Tobago.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*: 1–19.
 - You’re Never Indian or Caribbean Enough. 2019. *BBC News*.

5 Week 5: Race

Monday, February 6th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “What it means to be Black in Brazil.” 2020. *Vox*.
 - Mitchell-Walthour, Gladys, and William Darity Jr. 2014. “The Endogeneity of Race: Choosing Blackness in Salvador and São Paulo, Brazil.” *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* 9(3): 318–348.
 - “Mexico’s mixed-race beauty contest”. *BBC News*.
 - **Optional:** Brief Political History of Race in Latin America. 2021. *Crónica Panamericana*.

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Mitchell-Walthour, Gladys. 2018. “O ativismo digital da Justiça Social das Mulheres Afro-Brasileiras youtubers [Afro-Brazilian Women YouTubers’ Black Feminism in Digital Social Justice Activism].” *Interfaces* 18(3): 105–125. .
 - “Creator Spotlight: Papo de Preta”. *Papo de Preta*. 2022.

6 Week 6: Building Communities and Nations

Monday, February 13th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Cleary, Matthew R. 2020. “Subordinated Autonomy and the Political Inclusion of Women in Indigenous Mexico.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 62(3): 44–64.
 - Hernández Castillo, R. Aída. 2010. “The Emergence of Indigenous Feminism in Latin America.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 35(3): 539–545.
 - “Lupita: the indigenous activist leading a new generation of Mexican women”. 2021. *The Guardian*.
 - **Optional.** “Un Canto por México - El Musical”. 2022. Natalia Lafourcade.

Wednesday, February 15th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “Jose, Hero of Cuba”. 2018. *Rare Earth*.
 - Wajner, Daniel F., and Luis Roniger. 2019. “Transnational Identity Politics in the Americas: Reshaping ‘Nuestramérica’ as Chavismo’s Regional Legitimation Strategy.” *Latin American Research Review* 54(2).

7 Week 7: MARDI GRAS

Monday, February 20th, 2023

- *Reminder*
 - **MARDI GRAS NO CLASS**

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023

- *Reminder*
 - **MARDI GRAS NO CLASS**

8 Week 8: Discrimination

Monday, February 27th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Corrales, Javier. 2015. “The Politics of LGBT Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean: Research Agendas.” *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* (100): 53–62.
 - “Chile’s congress passes same-sex marriage bill”. 2021. *DW News*.
 - **Optional:** Driscoll, Amanda, Gabriel Cepaluni, Feliciano de Sá Guimarães, and Paolo Spada. 2018. “Prejudice, Strategic Discrimination, and the Electoral Connection: Evidence from a Pair of Field Experiments in Brazil.” *American Journal of Political Science* 62(4): 781–795.

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Beck, Eduard J. et al. 2017. “Attitudes towards homosexuals in seven Caribbean countries: implications for an effective HIV response.” *AIDS Care* 29(12): 1557–1566.
 - Human Rights Watch. 2018. “I Have to Leave to Be Me.” Human Rights Watch.

9 Week 9: Subnational Government**Monday, March 6th, 2022**

- *Before class*
 - Stoyan, Alissandra T., and Sara Niedzwiecki. 2018. “Decentralization and democratic participation: The effect of subnational self-rule on voting in Latin America and the Caribbean.” *Electoral Studies* 52: 26–35.
 - “¿Why does Peru need to assure indigenous communities’ land rights?”. 2019. *Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)*.
 - **Optional:** Niedzwiecki, Sara, Sandra Chapman Osterkatz, Liesbet Hooghe, and Gary Marks. 2018. “The RAI travels to Latin America: Measuring regional authority under regime change.” *Regional & Federal Studies*: 1–26.
 - **Optional:** Paredes, Maritza, and Tomáš Došek. 2020. “The Subnational Indigenous Quota in Peru: The Paradoxes of Political Representation.” *Latin American Politics and Society* 62(3): 123–148.
 - *Due*
 - * Project proposal due
 - * First set of Perusall annotations due
 - *Distribute*
 - * Midterm exam becomes available.

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023

- *Reminders*
 - MIDTERM STUDY DAY–NO CLASS

10 Week 10: Economics and Development**Monday, March 13th, 2023**

- *Before class*
 - How the U.S. and France Made Haiti Poor. 2021. *Al Jazeera +*.
 - “Reframing History: Bananas”. 2020. *Throughline*.
 - Brief Summary of Poverty and Inequality in Latin America. 2021. *Crónica Panamericana*.

- **Optional:** A homelessness spike in Latin America’s most populated city. 2021. CGTN America.

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “Import Substitution Industrialization.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
 - Pacheco, Pablo. 2006. “Agricultural Expansion and Deforestation in Lowland Bolivia: The Import Substitution Versus the Structural Adjustment Model.” *Land Use Policy* 23(3): 205–225.
- *Due:*
 - Midterm due

11 Week 11: Representation & Electoral Politics

Monday, March 20th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Boas, Taylor C., and Amy Erica Smith. 2019. “Looks like me, thinks like me: Descriptive representation and opinion congruence in Brazil.” *Latin American Research Review* 54(2).

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Franceschet, Susan, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. 2008. “Gender Quotas and Women’s Substantive Representation: Lessons from Argentina.” *Politics & Gender* 4(3): 393–425.
 - “Mexico gender quotas: Women politicians rally for equality”. 2018. *Al Jazeera English*.

12 Week 11: Pink Left, Welfare Policies, & Corruption

Monday, March 27th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “Can a rise of leftist leaders bring real change to Latin America? — The Stream”. 2022. *Al Jazeera English*.
 - “Colombia’s Incoming VP Francia Márquez in Her Own Words: ”A New Form of Government Is Possible”. 2022. *Democracy Now*.
 - Blofield, Merike, Christina Ewig, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. 2017. “The Reactive Left: Gender Equality and the Latin American Pink Tide.” *Social Politics* 24(4): 345–369.
 - **Optional:** “Bolivia, the Evo Morales Years.” 2019.

Wednesday, March 29th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Bolsa Familia: Program Credited with Reducing Brazilian Poverty. 2014. *CGTN Americas Now*
 - Pereira, Anthony W. 2015. “Bolsa Família and democracy in Brazil.” *Third World Quarterly* 36(9): 1682–1699.
 - The biggest corruption scandal in Latin America’s history. 2018. *Vox*.
 - **Optional:** Corruption Report for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2017. *Transparency International*.

13 Week 12: The Far-Right and Gendered Violence

Monday, April 3rd, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “How Jair Bolsonaro brought the far-right to power in Brazil”. 2018. *Vox*.
 - Goldstein, Ariel Alejandro. 2019. “The New Far-Right in Brazil and the Construction of a Right-Wing Order.” *Latin American Perspectives* 46(4): 245–262.
 - **Optional:** “The end of an era for the Latin American left? - UpFront.” 2017.

Wednesday, April 5th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - Women Are Being Killed With Impunity in Mexico. 2020. *VICE News*.
 - “Why is police violence so widespread in Latin America?”. 2020. *DW News*.
 - Córdova, Abby, and Helen Kras. 2019. “Addressing Violence Against Women: The Effect of Women’s Police Stations on Police Legitimacy.” *Comparative Political Studies*.
 - **Optional:** Biroli, Flávia. 2016. “Political violence against women in Brazil: expressions and definitions.” *Revista Direito e Práxis* 7(15): 557–589.

14 Week 13: Foreign Involvement and Conflict

Monday, April 17th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “Brief Political History of the US-Mexico Border”. 2021. *Crónica Panamericana*.
 - “How U.S. Involvement In Central America Led To a Border Crisis”. 2018. *Al Jazeera*.
 - **Optional:** “Puerto Rico”. 2019. *Throughline*.

Wednesday, April 19th, 2023

- *Before class*

- CIA in South America. 2007. *Geopolitical Monitor*.
- “Operation Condor: A Latin American alliance that led to disappearances and death.” 2015. *CGTN America*.
- “Our Neighbors Committed Mass Murder, Here’s What We Did”. 2020. *The New York Times*.
- **Optional:** “Grenada: Nobody’s Backyard”. 2022. *Throughline*.

15 Week 14: Transitions to Peace and Break

Monday, April 24th, 2023

- *Before class*
 - “Colombia: The long road to peace after the civil war”. 2019. *DW News*.
 - “Five years after Colombia’s peace deal, militias continue to cause havoc”. 2021. *The Economist*.
 - “Support for democracy declining in Latin America, report says”. 2018. *CBS News*.

Wednesday, April 26th, 2023

- *In class*
 - Final class wrap-up and reflection
 - **Discuss your final papers!!**

Remember: Final paper due **Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 by 11:59 P.M.**