

SYLLABUS
ECON 3004 – TOPICS IN ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF LATIN AMERICA

Spring Semester 2023

Credit Hours: 3 Semester Hours

Time: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM

Room: Middlebush Hall 133

01/17/23 – 05/04/23

Instructor Information

Name: Rudy V. Araujo

Email: rvar9c@umsystem.edu

Office Hours: TTH 9:30 – 11:00 pm at LSB 003 or by appointment

Course Information

Prerequisites

None

Textbook

Beatriz Armendariz and Felipe Larrain. ***The Economics of Contemporary Latin America***. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017.

Peter Kingstone. ***The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development after the Commodity Boom***. New York, NY: Routledge, 2018.

Course Contents and Objective

Latin America is a social, economic, and political kaleidoscope that has been searching for development and prosperity for many decades. However, this objective has eluded most countries that are part of the continent due to its institutional weaknesses and the increasing social and economic polarization fueled by an apparent self-serving political leadership.

Thus, this course will address how a well-endowed land, a diverse society, and increasingly modernizing economies are failing to improve most of its population's quality of life. Most importantly, the course will seek solutions through discussions based on the readings required and assigned during the semester.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

- a. Have a better understanding of the linkages between society's political and economic realms.
- b. Have a better understanding of the relationship between the United States and Latin America.
- c. Comprehend what the critical issues for economic development and stability to occur are.
- d. Understand how public policies and political institutions impact economic development and growth opportunities.
- e. Identify policy and business opportunities as potential solutions to the exodus of people from the region.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Test
1 16-Jan	A brief introduction to Latin America	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 1	
2 23-Jan	Opportunities and challenges of Development in Latin America	Kingstone, CH.1 Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 2	
3 30-Jan	Import Substitution and Growth	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 3 Kingstone, CH.2	-
4 6-Feb	Crisis and lost opportunities	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 4	Test 1
5 13-Feb	Poverty and inequality sowing the seeds of social discontent	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 5	
6 20-Feb	The Washington Consensus and Neoliberalism	Kingstone, CH.3	
7 27-Feb	Political tensions and economic challenges	Kingstone, CH.4	
8 6-Mar	The Political Economy of Latin America	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 6	Test 2
9 13-Mar	The surge of populism and the economy	Kingstone, CH.5	
10 20-Mar	Political Corruption and its effects on institutional stability	Spotlight of Public Corruption in Latin America Understanding Odebrecht Exposing the Panama Papers	
11 27-Mar	Spring Break		
12 3-Apr	Fiscal Policy for Development	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 7	

13	10-Apr	Managing inflation	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 8	
14	17-Apr	Informality and labor markets	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapter 11	Test 3
15	24-Apr	Exchanges rates, financial liberalization, and trade	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapters 9 and 10	
16	1-May	Is there light at the end of the tunnel?	Armendariz and Larrain, Chapters 12	
17	8-May	Finals Week		Comprehensive Final

Evaluation

Exams

As noted in the tentative schedule, there will be three exams and a comprehensive final exam.

Group paper

Students will be organized into 4 to 5-member groups to work on a research paper of no more than 20 pages on one of the following topics

- a. The US economic relations with Latin America
- b. Drug trafficking, corruption, and economic development in Latin America
- c. The economic policies of populism and its perspectives
- d. Threats and opportunities of China's economic relationship with Latin America

Each group should collect data and consult academic and historical papers to support their hypotheses.

Participation

Notwithstanding the class size, active course participation is required. Not only will it increase the student's knowledge and understanding of the subject, but it will also make the class more interesting.

Although students are free to choose between attending class, attendance is highly recommended as many issues and themes discussed in the classroom will be included in the tests and will contribute to the writing of each group's paper.

Grading

The following charts summarize the relative weight of each activity and the corresponding grade in total points accumulated during the semester. Reviewing these charts should help the students define their level of effort and time to commit to the class based on their grade expectations.

Activity	Points	%
Three partial exams	300	50%
Comprehensive final	150	25%
Group assignment	100	17%
Class participation	50	8%
Total Points	600	100%

Range		Grade	
541	-	600	A
481	-	540	B
421	-	480	C
361	-	420	D
0	-	360	F

Missed/Make-Up Exams

If a student cannot take a test due to an emergency, he or she shall notify the instructor at least **two days** in advance to reschedule the test time and location. Failure to inform the instructor will result in a zero score on the test. **There will be no make-up tests.**

Administrative Matters

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters.

Standard of Conduct for Academic Integrity

In addition, students are expected to adhere to this honor pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so: "I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."

Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Acceptable Use

The University of Missouri's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for information technology applies to Mizzou websites. The AUP addresses federal and state laws, university regulations, intellectual-property rights, software-licensing requirements and prohibitions against plagiarism and obscenity. This policy applies to all users including faculty, staff, students, and guest users of University of Missouri computer networks, equipment, or connecting resources.

[UM System Acceptable Use Policy](#)

[Copyright](#)

This section helps you understand copyright in course materials, student work and pages published on Mizzou websites.

[UM System Copyright Information](#)

[Executive Order No. 38](#)

When you record something that happens in a course (a lecture, class discussions, meetings, etc.) it has an impact on the rights of the people captured in that recording. For example, your instructor and the University may have rights to the intellectual property contained in that recording. At the same time, another student who may have been recorded has the right to privacy. In order to protect these rights, MU employs a policy (called “Executive Order No. 38”) to govern both situations you may encounter while taking a course--when your instructor allows recordings and when he or she does not allow them.

[Executive Order No. 38](#)

[FERPA](#)

The University of Missouri maintains educational records of students in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Related topics include privacy policies at MU, display of student directory information, and details about how MU manages FERPA-protected information.

[Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)

[Intellectual Pluralism](#)

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director, the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, or the MU Equity Office.

[Statement on Intellectual Pluralism](#)

[Statement of Nondiscrimination](#)

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, genetics information, disability, or status as a protected veteran.

[MU Statement of Nondiscrimination](#)

If you experience discrimination or sexual violence, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the Office of Institutional Equity. Learn more about your rights and options at the Office of Institutional Equity or by calling 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

If you are a survivor, or someone concerned about a survivor, and need immediate information on what to do, see RSVP resources page. Both the Office of Institutional Equity and the RSVP Center can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced any of these forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment, Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share this information with the MU Office of Institutional Equity. They will contact you to offer information about resources, as well as your rights and options as a member of our campus community.

Mental Health

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00-5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu/> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no additional cost to you.

Last date of attendance and impact on financial aid

Federal regulations for financial aid require the student financial aid office to document the attendance of students who have received federal financial aid if they do not successfully complete any courses during the term. As a result, the last day of attendance (or activity) for any student receiving an F, U, or FN in this course will be recorded in the grade roster and reported to the financial aid office. **Based on the last day of attendance, students may be required to repay a portion of their financial aid award for the semester.**

A student's last day of attendance (or activity) is the last day on which a student participates in an academically-related activity at the University. These include:

- Attendance in class, lab, or an instructor's office hours
- The completion of an assignment or examination
- An appointment with a professor or e-mail correspondence regarding course material
- (Online courses only) For online courses, the last day a student submits an assignment or exam. Only logging into an online class without participating is not acceptable for last day of attendance

Please note that discussing a course withdrawal or notifying the instructor of an absence in class does not constitute participation for financial aid purposes. Moreover, any office hour visits or email correspondence must be related to the course material.

Netiquette

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambiance.

Religious Holidays & Accommodations

Many religious faiths are represented in the student body. The University of Missouri does not restrict student free exercise of religion, unless 1) the restriction is in the form of a rule of general applicability, and does not discriminate against religion or among religions; and 2) it can be demonstrated that the application

of the restriction is essential to furthering a compelling university interest, and is not unduly restrictive considering the relevant circumstance. The policy of the University attempts to strike a reasonable balance between accommodating the religious practice of students and meeting academic needs and standard.

Consult IDE's [Guide to Religions](#) for the form that can be used to notify an instructor of an absence associated with religious practice. Students are expected to notify their instructor(s) by completing and submitting this form in a manner that is consistent with the procedure outlined in the university's policy on student religious accommodation. Providing false information regarding sincerely held religious practice is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and will not be tolerated.

[Decreasing the Risk of COVID-19 in Classrooms and Labs](#)

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been identified as someone who needs to quarantine, do not attend class in person until the mandated period for isolation or quarantine has passed. Your instructor will work with you on arrangements to access class material while you are in isolation or quarantine.

Additionally, if you are experiencing any COVID-related symptoms, or are otherwise feeling unwell, do not attend in-person classes and contact your health care provider and/or student health immediately. COVID symptoms include: fever greater than 100.4 or chills; cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; fatigue; unexplained muscle or body aches; headache; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; congestion or runny nose; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.

Please consult [Show Me Renewal](#) for further guidelines. This statement will be updated as information changes. Last updated August 9, 2022