

Eduexplora Yale
The Political Economy of Development in Latin America
Summer 2022

Course Syllabus (*updated: 07/18/2022*)

Cohort: Session 2 Humanities 2
Location: William L. Harkness Hall (WLH) Room 203
Time: 11:00am–12:45pm

Instructor: Tiago Peterlevitz
tiago.peterlevitz@yale.edu

Course Description

This course investigates the political causes and consequences of underdevelopment in Latin America. Old and new challenges to governance plague the region. Was underdevelopment a colonial legacy? Why is inequality in Latin America one of the highest in the world? Why is the region prone to clientelism, corruption, crime, and distorted economic policies? How do populism and left and right political parties influenced the region’s policy choices? We will examine these and other pressing problems Latin American citizens face. We will also review policy and institutional proposals to remedy the investigated problems. Do gun laws decrease violence? Does central bank independence promote better monetary policy? Students will be encouraged to think critically, connect theory and evidence, and develop logical arguments. By the end of the course, students will have engaged with various social science tools—concepts, theories, and empirical approaches—that will help them think more critically about the region and studied topics.

Class Format

Classes will be a mix of lectures and discussions. Readings and class topics may change with advance notice. During class time, electronic devices should be used exclusively for accessing course materials.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1 Class 1 (Jul 18): Course Introduction + Colonial Legacies

- Engerman, Stanley L. and Kenneth L. Sokoloff (1994). “Factor Endowments, Institutions and Differential Paths of Growth among New World Economies: A View from

Economic Historians of the United States.” NBER Historical Working Paper 66, December.

Week 1, Class 2 (Jul 19): Inequality

- United Nations Development Programme (2021). “Trapped: High Inequality and Low Growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Chapters 1 and 3.
- De Ferranti, David, et al (2004). “Inequality in Latin America: Breaking with History?” World Bank. Chapter 2, 35–71.

Week 1 Class 3 (Jul 20): Crime and Gun Control

- The Economist (2018). “Shining Light on Latin America’s Homicide Epidemic,” April 5.
- Dube, Arindrajit, Oeindrila Dube and Omar Garcia Ponce (2013). “Cross-Border Spillover: U.S. Gun Laws and Violence in Mexico.” *American Political Science Review*, 107(3): 397–417.

Week 1, Class 4 (Jul 21): Polarization and Misinformation

- Ryan, Timothy J. (2012). “What Makes Us Click? Demonstrating Incentives for Angry Discourse with Digital-Age Field Experiments.” *The Journal of Politics* 74(4): 1138–1152.
- Vosoughi, Soroush, Deb Roy and Sinan Aral (2018). “The Spread of True and False News Online.” *Science* 359(6380): 1146–1151.
- Ricard, Julie, and Juliano Medeiros (2020). Using Misinformation as a Political Weapon: COVID-19 and Bolsonaro in Brazil.” *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review* 1(2): 1–8.

Week 1, Class 5 (Jul 22): Clientelism

- Peterlevitz, Tiago. (2022) “Patronage Contracting.” Working Paper, Yale University, May 12.

Week 2, Class 6 (Jul 25): Corruption

- Fried, Brian, Paul Lagunes and Atheendar Venkataramani (2010) “Corruption and Inequality at the Crossroad: A Multimethod Study of Bribery and Discrimination in Latin America.” *Latin American Research Review* 5(1): 76–97.
- Manzetti, Luigi and Guillermo Rosas (2015). “Corruption and the Latin American Voter in Carlin, Ryan et al. (Eds.), *The Latin American Voter: Pursuing Representation and Accountability in Challenging Contexts*. University of Michigan Press. Chapter 12.

Week 2, Class 7 (Jul 26): The Left and the Right in Latin America

- Zechmeister, Elizabeth J. and Margarita Corral (2013). “Individual and Contextual Constraints on Ideological Labels in Latin America.” *Comparative Political Studies* 46(6): 675–701.

Week 2, Class 7 (Jul 27): Populism

- Bakker, Bert N., Gijs Schumacher, and Matthijs Rooduijn (2021). “The Populist Appeal: Personality and Antiestablishment Communication.” *The Journal of Politics* 83(2): 589–601.
- Silva, Bruno Castanho (2019). “He’s Not One of Them!’ Antiestablishment Supporters of Populist Governments in Bolivia and Ecuador.” *The Journal of Politics* 81(3): 1085–1089.

Week 2, Class 8 (Jul 28): Religion and the Evangelicals

- Sotelo, Maria V. and Felipe Arocena (2021). “Evangelicals in the Latin American Political Arena: The Cases of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.” *SN Social Sciences* 1(180): 1–26.
- Boas, Taylor C. (2014). “Pastor Paulo vs. Doctor Carlos: Professional Titles as Voting Heuristics in Brazil.” *Journal of Politics in Latin America* 6(2): 39–72.
- Boas, Taylor C. (2016). “Pastors for Pinochet: Authoritarian Stereotypes and Voting for Evangelicals in Chile.” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 3(2): 197–205.

Week 2, Class 9 (Jul 28): Remedying Poverty: Conditional Cash Transfers

- The Economist Article on Conditional Cash Transfers + TBD Literature Review on the Topic

Week 2, Class 10 (Jul 29): Economic Reforms

- Williamson, John (2006), What Washington Means by Policy Reform, In Peter R. Kingstone, ed. Readings in Latin American Politics, Houghton Mifflin: Boston, 83–89.
- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, Pablo Querubín, and James A. Robinson (2008). When Does Policy Reform Work? The Case of Central Bank Independence, in Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, Spring, 351–417.