

## **PLSC 300C Contemporary Peru: Politics and Society**

**(Approved to fulfill the Core “Societal & Cultural” Knowledge Area)**

**Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya**

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### **Course Description**

Latin American countries share a common past of colonialism, poverty, authoritarianism, political instability, and foreign intervention. They differ, however, in the way they have dealt with this heritage and in the way they are dealing with some critical contemporary challenges such as democratization, governance, economic development, human development, and human rights. Peru is an interesting case that can be used to understand the uneven success of democratization and human development in the Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela) and how social and economic conditions heavily shape the functioning and quality of political regimes in developing countries.

In this course we will address: (a) the structures of social, political, and cultural exclusion that characterized Peru; (b) the way social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the Peruvian society shape and affect its political fortune; (c) the main achievements and shortcomings of the current democratic experience; (d) the main obstacles to improve the democratic quality of the current political regime.

### **Course Objectives**

This class has several objectives: (1) to provide students with a basic foundation and understanding of the most relevant themes and events in regards to contemporary Peru, (2) to encourage students to evaluate the academic literature and journalistic production on Peru with a critical eye, (3) to provide students the opportunity to understand how social, cultural, and economic structures can shape political developments in developing countries, and (4) to identify and understand the most important differences and similarities between Peru and other Latin American countries.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class and to attend lectures, as material not found in the readings may appear in lectures and in exams. Students are also expected to arrive to class on time and not to leave until class is over. Students have a responsibility to show respect for the opinions expressed by their classmates.

Grading for this class will be based on a midterm exam (40 percent of the final grade), a one 10-page final paper (50 percent of the final grade) and class participation (10 percent of the final grade). The midterm exam will be a one-hour written exam covering the readings, lectures, discussions and all other material used in class. Regarding the final paper, students will be required to write a research paper focusing on one of the main themes developed during the course. Students will have the opportunity to talk with the instructor about the topic of his or her final paper. Papers should have the following format: (a) introduction and statement of why the topic is important, (2) review of the literature or background material on this topic, (3) discussion of your research analysis and main findings, (4) conclusion and (5) references. Paper should be coherent and consistent, and must include citations (or footnotes). The final paper is due the last day of class. The participation grade will be based mostly on the overall contribution to the class—e.g., asking questions for clarification during lectures, participating in class discussions, sharing comments about the material, and answering instructor questions during lectures.

### **Grading Scale**

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

### **Required Texts**

Smith, Peter H. 2005. *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective*. (New York: Oxford University Press).

A course package with several journal articles and book chapters.

### **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

#### **Week 1: An Overview of Contemporary Peruvian Politics (Part one)**

##### *Democratization Cycles in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 1)

Smith (Chapter 2)

Tanaka, Martin. 2005. "Peru 1980-2000: Chronicle of a Death Foretold? Determinism, Political Decisions, and Open Outcomes" in Frances Hagopian and Scott Mainwaring (ed.) *The Third Wave of Democratization in Latin America. Advances and Setbacks*.

##### *The Military in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 3)

Hunter, Wendy. 1997. "Continuity of Change? Civil-Military-Relations in Democratic Argentina, Chile and Peru" *Political Science Quarterly* 112(3): 453-475

*Political Violence in Peru: 1980-1995*

Stern, Steve. 1998. "Introduction. Beyond Enigma: An Agenda for Interpreting Shining Path, 1980-1985" in Steve Stern (ed.) *Shining and Other Path: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Basombrío, Carlos. 1998. "Sendero Luminoso and Human Right: A Perverse logic that captured the country" in Steve Stern (ed.) *Shining and Other Path: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Stern, Steve. 1998. "Conclusion. Shining Path and Other Paths; The Origins, Dynamics and Legacies of War, 1980-1995" in Steve Stern (ed.) *Shining and Other Path: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995*. Durham: Duke University Press.

**Week 2: An Overview of Contemporary Peruvian Politics (Part two) and The Institutional Setting in Peru**

*The Rise of Electoral Authoritarianism in Peru: 1992-2000*

Carrión, Julio. 2006. "Conclusion: The Rise and Fall of Electoral Authoritarianism" in Julio Carrión (ed.) *The Fujimori Legacy. The Rise of Electoral Authoritarianism*.

Oliart, Patricia. 1998. "Alberto Fujimori: 'The Men Peru Needed'" Steve Stern (ed.) *Shining and Other Path: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995*. Durham: Duke University Press.

*Presidentialism in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 5)

Smith (Chapter 6)

*Parties and Party System in Peru*

Levitsky, Steven and Maxwell Cameron. 2003. "Democracy without Parties? Political Parties and Regime Change in Fujimori's Peru." *Latin American Politics and Society* 45(3): 1-34.

Dietz, Henry and David J. Myers. 2007. "From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru." *Latin American Politics and Society* 49(2): 59-86.

Roberts, Kenneth. 2006. "Do Parties Matter? Lessons from Fujimori Experience" in Julio Carrión (ed.) *The Fujimori Legacy. The Rise of Electoral Authoritarianism*.

*Elections in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 7)

### **Week 3: Civil Society, Social Movements and Political Culture in Peru**

#### *Civil Society and Social Movements in Peru*

Madrid, Raúl. 2005. "Indigenous Parties and Democracy in Latin America." *Latin American Politics and Society* 47(4): 161-179.

Yashar, Deborah. 2006. "Indigenous Politics in the Andes: Changing Patterns of Recognition, Reform, and Representation" in Scott Mainwaring, Ana María Bejarano and Eduardo Pizarro Leóngomez (ed.) *The Crisis of Democratic Representation in the Andes*.

#### *Political Culture in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 11)

UNDP. 2004. Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy (pp. 131-147)

Seligson, Mitchell. 2008. *Challenges to Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Evidence from the Americas Barometer 2006-07*. Latin America Research Project.

### **Week 4: Human Development, Human Rights and Political Representation in Peru**

#### *The Political Impact of Poverty*

Weyland, Kurt. 2006. "The Rise and Decline of Fujimori's Neopopulist Leadership" in Julio Carrión (ed.) *The Fujimori Legacy. The Rise of Electoral Authoritarianism*.

### **Week 5: Citizenship and Governance in Peru**

#### *State Capacity and Policy Performance in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 8)

Smith (Chapter 9)

#### *The Quality of Democracy in Peru*

Smith (Chapter 10)

Smith (Chapter 12)

Foweraker, Joe and Roman Krznaric. 2002. "The Uneven Performance of the Third Wave Democracies: Electoral Politics and the Imperfect Rule of Law in Latin America." *Journal of Latin America Politics and Society* 44(3): 29-60.