



FUNDACIÓN CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS INTERAMERICANOS CEDEI

PSC 310: Political Economy of Latin America

GENERAL CLASS DESCRIPTION

The focus of the present syllabus is the analysis of the economic development level of Latin American countries. For this purpose, the economic effects of different events, such as: colonization, independence, and world wars, as well as free trade agreements. In this way, the student will be able to understand how the region's economic situation has been changing throughout history.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The general objective of the course is to relate historic events with the current economic situation of the region, through studying the different development models adopted by Latin American Governments. This will provide the background for understanding the inequality of Latin American countries, in terms of development.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To define the development models used throughout Latin American history.
2. To identify such development models in Latin American history.
3. To explain the impact of these models on the periods they were applied.

PROGRAM

CONTENT	Readings/Activities	Theoretical – Practical Evaluation
Introduction, revision of the syllabus.	Syllabus Video: "Linked by History"	Comments about similarities and differences of countries in Latin America.

Unit I: Development Indicators		
	“Economic Development of Latin America”. Pgs.1-18. The Economic History of Latin America.	Defines “economic development” and lists the most used indicators to measure it.
Unit II: The Colonial Legacy	“The colonial legacy”. Pgs.22-27. The Economic History of Latin America.	Lists the taxes that Spain used to create economic dependency of the region.
	Movie “Camila”	Analyzes the role and influence of the Church after the independence.
Unit III: The Independence	“The economic consequences of the Independence”. Pgs.28-45. The Economic History of Latin America.	Explains how the lack of administrative experience and the military expenditures influenced the little change in the fiscal system, comparing it to the colonial times.
Unit IV: Export-led Growth Model	“The export sector and the world economy”. Pgs.46-71. The Economic History of Latin America.	Defines “commodity lottery” and “comparative advantage”, and identifies the successful countries under the export-led growth model.
Unit V: Export markets	“Export-led growth Model: the supply side”. Pgs.82-106. The Economic History of Latin America.	Explains how, despite the abundance of land and labor, the development of the region was limited by the capital and foreign investment.
Unit VI: The export sector	“The export-led growth model and the non – export sector”. Pgs.117-151. The Economic History of Latin America.	Explains why in order for the export model to work it is necessary to transfer the profits to the non -export sector.
Unit VII: World War I	“World War I and its aftermath”. Pgs.152-170. The Economic History of Latin America.	Specifies which countries were favored and which ones were not, by WWI.
	“World War I and its aftermath”. Pgs.152-170. The Economic History of Latin America. (Continuation from the previous class)	Specifies which countries were favored and which ones were not, by WWI. (Continuation from the previous class)
	Review for the Midterm Review of the topics for the final presentation.	Reinforces topics that may not be clear, in order to be prepared for the midterm exam.

Midterm	Unit I – Unit VIII	Presents the economic profile of a country of interest, since the Colony until WWI.
Unit VIII: Import substitution model	Video “Good Neighbor” toward Latin America	Discusses the relationship between USA and Latin America after WWI.
	“The role of the Estate in the diversification and the Productive Transformation” Pgs.47-53. Agenda para la Transformación Productiva.	Analyzes under which conditions it is desired to substitute imports with national products, showing the results obtained in Latin American countries.
Unit IX: World War II	“War and the New economic order” Pgs.232-258. The Economic History of Latin America.	Finds similarities and differences in the effects of both wars on Latin America.
Unit X: International Trade Agreements	“Regional Integration regional” Pgs.288-297. The Economic History of Latin America.	Analyzes and understands the main trade agreements among the countries of the region and the main reasons for them.
Unit XI: Export Promotion and Substitution	“New strategies and debt-led growth” Pgs.316-329. The Economic History of Latin America.	Analyzes the reason and results of the new alternatives to the import substitution, adopted by different countries.
Unit XII: Debt-led Growth Model	“New strategies and debt-led growth” Pgs.346-352. The Economic History of Latin America.	Understands why many countries’ government financing started depending on external debt.
Unit XIII: Dictatorships	Movie “Machuca”	Compares the effect of Allende’s socialist government and Pinochet’s dictatorship on Chile’s social-economic classes.
Unit XIV: Border Conflicts	“Border conflicts: the pending matter in Latin America”. Observador Global.com	Identifies the winners and losers of the border conflicts in the region; the role of the winner and the role of the loser.
Unit XV: Current situation: Ecuador	“Productive Diversification Strategy” Pgs.105-130. Agenda para la Transformación Productiva.	Examines the current image that Latin America has as a mainly socialist region, analyzing the current government of Ecuador.
	Review	Identifies parts of the project that need to be expanded, modified or corrected.
Final Exam	Unit I - Unit XV	Presents a project about a country of interest in which identifies the interaction of the topics covered throughout the course.

METHODOLOGY:

Comparative: in Unit I, when comparing the level of economic development of different countries.

Cases: in Units VIII, XIII y XV, when analyzing cases like Argentina, Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador, which illustrate the topics covered in the class.

Intuitive: in Unit II, when projecting the movie "Camila".

Discussion: for each class, a short essay or research paper will be assigned, which should be presented for discussion.

QUALITATIVE EVALUATION:

Different competencies will be assessed, such as: analysis and synthesis skills, planning and time management, general knowledge about the subject and problem solving capabilities.

In addition, interpersonal competencies through the development of self-assessment and criticism capabilities, teamwork, and ethical behavior.

Systematic competencies focused on the ability to apply the content, research capabilities, creativity, and initiative.

PARAMETERS OF QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION:

Performance will be evaluated over a 100 points, which will be subdivided as follows:

In-class Participation: 15%

Assignments: 25%

Midterm: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

CLASS POLICIES:**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory. Three late arrivals represent an absence. With three unjustified absences, the student will fail the course.

PLAGIARISM

The following constitute disciplinary offenses:

- The act of, the attempt to or to be supplanted when presenting a paper or in tests.
- To commit plagiarism or fraud in academic assignments.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Students are highly encouraged to participate in any of the following ways:

Asking questions

Discussing assignments in class

Expressing their point of view, in a respectful way

RESOURCES:

Material	Human	Didáctica
Bibliographical	Professor- students	Computer-Internet

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bulmer-Thomas, Victor. The Economic History of Latin America since Independence. New York, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

COMPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Augusto Pinochet The passing of a tyrant. The Economist (Dic. 13, 2006). Internet.

<http://www.economist.com/node/8413038>.

Bethel, Leslie. Historia de América Latina. América Latina colonial: economía. Barcelona, Editorial Crítica, 1990.

Comisión Económica para América Latina, <http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/noticias/paginas/3/43023/P43023.xml&xsl=/tpl/p18fst.xml&base=/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>

Ministerio de Coordinación de la Producción, Empleo y Competitividad. Agenda para la Transformación Productiva. Quito, 2010.

Sbarbi Osuna, Maximiliano. Conflictos limítrofes, la materia pendiente de América Latina.

Observador Global (31.08.09). Internet. <http://observadorglobal.com/conflictos-limitrofes-la-materia-pendiente-de-america-latina-n2536.html>.