

**Govt 390**  
**From Perón to Chávez: Populism in Latin America**

Spring 2016  
Morton Hall 37  
T, Th: 6:00 PM – 7:20 PM  
Office: Millington Hall, Room 251  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 PM  
Wednesday 2:00-3:00 PM  
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**Course Introduction and Objectives**

From Juan Domingo Perón and Evita’s mobilization of workers in Argentina to Hugo Chávez’s demagoguery and charismatic appeals to the Venezuelan poor, populism is an enduring political tradition in Latin America. Politicians in the region have repeatedly sought to make direct, personal, and emotional pleas to their countrymen in their quest for power. This course examines the question of what exactly populism is, why it has flourished in Latin America, and how it has evolved over time. In it, we will try to identify and define populism, examine its social, economic, and political origins, and analyze some of the consequences of populism for democracy, stability, and economic development. We will also take a historical look at populism in Latin America, using case studies from the early twentieth century to the present. This material is especially pertinent to students interested in Latin America, as well as government and public policy students interested in issues of political power and leadership.

**Course Materials**

There are no required books for this class. All readings on the syllabus are available electronically on the class’s Blackboard page (<https://blackboard.wm.edu>) or by following their URLs. We will use a portion of each class for discussion, so it is important to keep up with the reading assignments.

**Requirements and Grading**

a) Participation	15%
b) Pop quizzes	10%
b) Quiz #1	15%
c) Quiz #2	30%
d) Research Paper	30%

**Participation (15%):** Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes (showing up and falling asleep, for example, will not count). As part of this, I will subtract 1% from the final grade for each missed class (e.g. five missed class days=maximum class grade of 95%). I will give you one “free” day.

**Three Pop Quizzes (10%):** To assure that everyone keeps up with the class work, there will be an undisclosed number of pop quizzes during the term (probably around 3). These will focus on the readings and discussion material—they are not meant to trick you. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.

**Quiz 1 (15%):** There will be an in-class multiple-choice quiz at the beginning of class on March 29 covering material from the first four classes. It should take no longer than twenty minutes.

**Quiz 2 (30%):** The second quiz will be held in class on April 12 after a brief review session. It will be composed of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay-style questions and will take the whole class period.

**Research Paper (30%):** Students will write a short research paper (8-10 pages, Times New Roman, double-spaced) on the origins and effects of a populist leader not covered in one of the class sessions (e.g. no Perón, Fujimori, or Chávez). The paper should give a) background on the socio-political and economic context of the country that led to the rise of the leader; b) a brief summary of how the leader came to power and governed; and c) an analysis of the quality of democracy since that leader left office. Papers are due in hard copy only the last day of class (April 21).

**The following grade scale will be used in this class:**

93-100	A
90-93	A-
87-90	B+
83-87	B
80-83	B-
77-80	C+
73-77	C
70-73	C-
67-70	D+
63-67	D
60-63	D-
Below 60	F

**Attendance and Classroom Conduct**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to behave in a mature, professional manner. Students who miss classes (mentally or physically) are responsible for the material covered. Laptop computers, cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices are not allowed during class sessions unless otherwise designated (student cell phone use in class is my pet peeve!). Violators will face grade penalties decided by the instructor.

**Academic Honesty**

All students are advised to be familiar with William and Mary's Honor Code and standards of academic integrity available in the student handbook or online ([www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/honorcodeandstudentconduct/index.php](http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentconduct/honorcodeandstudentconduct/index.php)). These principles will be strictly enforced in this course. Cheating on examinations is an example, but not an exhaustive list, of a violation of these standards of academic integrity. Anyone who violates the standards of academic integrity will face the full force of university-sanctioned penalties, including, but not limited to, failing the class.

**Late Policy/Make-Ups**

All exams and quizzes are to be taken at the scheduled time. The only exception to this is for a university-approved absence with proper documentation. Be forewarned: the make-up exam will be tougher than the original. Failure to take an exam or quiz at the scheduled time will result in a grade of zero (0). I will not accept late papers (so do not wait to the last minute to write it).

**Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities**

Students with a disability that may require an accommodation for taking this course, should contact Student Accessibility Services (Campus Center Room 109, 757-221-2509, <http://www.wm.edu/offices/deanofstudents/services/studentaccessibilityservices/services/index.p>

[hp](#)). It is the student's responsibility to inform the professor about these needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

### **Schedule of Assignments**

Below is a schedule of assignments for the class. All readings are to be completed by the beginning of each class.

## **READING**

### **WEEK 1: Populism as a Concept**

#### **March 15- Introduction**

- Roniger, Luis. 2013. "Modern Populism in Latin America." In *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, ed. B. Vinson. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### **March 17- Defining and Measuring Populism**

- Weyland, Kurt. 2001. "Clarifying a Contested Concept: Populism in the Study of Latin American Politics." *Comparative Politics* 34(1): 1-22.
- Stanley, Ben. 2008. "The Thin Ideology of Populism." *Journal of Political Ideologies* 13(1): 95-110.

### **WEEK 2: Causes and Effects**

#### **March 22- Social, Political, and (Especially) Economic Antecedents for Populists**

- Skidmore, Thomas, Peter Smith, and James Green. 2013. "Strategies for Economic Development" in *Modern Latin America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (pp.343-369)

#### **March 24- Pernicious Effects: Populism and Democracy**

- Weyland, Kurt. 2013. "Why Latin America Is Becoming Less Democratic," *The Atlantic Monthly* (July 15). <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/07/why-latin-america-is-becoming-less-democratic/277803/>
- Torres, Vladimir. 2006. "The Impact of "Populism" on Social, Political, and Economic Development in the Hemisphere." Ottawa: Canadian Foundation for the Americas.

### **WEEK 3: Populism in Twentieth Century Latin America**

#### **\*\*QUIZ (Multiple choice)**

#### **March 29- Argentina and Juan Domingo Perón**

- Torre, Juan Carlos. 1993. "Argentina since 1946." In *Argentina Since Independence*, ed. L. Bethell. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Guillermprieto, Alma. 2001. "Little Eva" in *Looking for History*. New York: Vintage Books (pp.3-17)

#### **March 31- Fujimori and Neoliberal Populism in the 1980s and 1990s**

- Guillermprieto, Alma. 1994. "Lima, 1990" in *The Heart that Bleeds: Latin America Now*. New York: Vintage Books (pp.68-91)
- Fujimori, Alberto. 1995. "A Momentous Decision" in *The Peru Reader* (Eds. Orin Starn, Carlos Iván Degregori, Robin Kirk). Durham: Duke University Press (pp.438-445)
- Weyland, Kurt G. 1999. "Neoliberal Populism in Latin America and Eastern Europe." *Comparative Politics* 31(4): 379-401.

## **WEEK 4: Populism in Twenty-First Century Latin America**

### **April 5- The Pink Tide**

- 2006. "The Return of Populism", *The Economist*, <http://www.economist.com/node/6802448>
- Roberts, Kenneth M. 2007. "Latin America's Populist Revival." *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 27(1): 3-15.

### **April 7- Hugo Chávez**

- Anderson, John Lee. 2001. "The Revolutionary" in *The New Yorker* (September 10) <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2001/09/10/the-revolutionary>
- Anderson, John Lee. 2001. "Postscript: Hugo Chávez, 1954-2013" in *The New Yorker* (March 5) <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/postscript-hugo-chvez-1954-2013>
- Hawkins, Kirk A. 2009. "Is Chávez Populist? Measuring Populist Discourse in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Political Studies* 42(8): 1040-67.
- Vacano, Diego von. 2013. "Hugo Chávez and the Death of Populism", *The Monkey Cage* (March 6): <http://themonkeycage.org/2013/03/hugo-chavez-and-the-death-of-populism/>

## **WEEK 5: Quiz and Subtypes of Populism**

### **April 12- No reading**

#### **\*\*QUIZ #2**

### **April 14- Ethnopolitism and Technopolitism**

- Madrid, Raúl. 2008. "The Rise of Ethnopolitism in Latin America," *World Politics* 60(3): 475-508.
- de la Torre, Carlos. 2013. "Technocratic Populism in Ecuador." *Journal of Democracy* 24(3): 33-46.

## **WEEK 6: Populism in a Comparative Perspective**

### **April 19- Trump and the U.S.**

- Mudde, Cas. 2015. "The Trump phenomenon and the European populist radical right", *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)* (August 26): <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/08/26/the-trump-phenomenon-and-the-european-populist-radical-right/>
- Mueller, Jan Werner. 2015. "Trump is a far right populist, not a fascist", *Al Jazeera America* (December 26), <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/12/trump-is-a-far-right-populist-not-a-fascist.html>
- Taub, Amanda. 2016. "The Rise of American Authoritarianism," *Vox* (March 1), <http://www.vox.com/2016/3/1/11127424/trump-authoritarianism>

### **April 21- Wrapping Up: What to Do with Populism**

#### **\*\*Final Paper Due**

- Rovira Kaltwasser, Cristóbal, and Paul Taggart. 2016. "Dealing with populists in government: a framework for analysis." *Democratization* 23(2): 201-20.