

Government 49.5/LACS 53
Spring 2013 Dartmouth College
2 (1:45 to 3pm)
Room Silsby 213

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Ofc Hours: T 2-4, Th 12-2
And by appointment

Protests and Parties in Latin America

Course Description

For many people, Che Guevara remains the key symbol of protest in Latin America. His passionate belief in social justice, his refusal to compromise and the extraordinary personal sacrifices he made on behalf of the poor all contribute to his enduring legacy. While this legacy continues to inspire people to engage in protest and revolutionary movements, it does little to help us understand the conditions under which organized movements will succeed in their goals—or even form in the first place. Under what conditions do people organize on behalf of their collective interests? Under what conditions will efforts to mobilize succeed? What factors determine the impact that social movements will have on public policy? What happens once revolutionary or protest movements gain power? What are the advantages and disadvantages of transforming from a movement to a political party? We address these questions in by studying various cases of mobilization in several Latin American countries.

Course Objectives

When this course is completed, students will be able to:

- Discuss the following cases in terms of their emergence, evolution and outcomes
 - Indigenous mobilization in Guatemala
 - Revolutionary movements in Central America
 - Argentine *piqueteros*
- Identify the main theories of collective action within political science
 - Rationalist
 - Resource Mobilization
 - Structural
 - Constructivist
 - Political Opportunities
- Explain the main premises and logic behind competing theories, in general and as they apply them to specific cases
- Explain the strengths and limitations of various theoretical approaches, in general and as they apply to specific cases
- Evaluate qualitative evidence for theories of collective action
- Evaluate competing arguments in terms of their validity and persuasiveness
- Construct valid and persuasive arguments

Central Questions

Keep the following questions in mind during the quarter. Look for the answers to them as you read, prepare for class and engage in discussion. Keep them in mind as you read about various instances of collective action in the newspaper (in Latin America and elsewhere, particularly about the insurgency in Iraq). We may add questions to this list as we go along.

- Under what conditions will people organize collectively to achieve their goals?
- Under what conditions will groups turn to violence?
- How and under what conditions do ostensibly powerless people gain political influence and get their goals met, especially given conditions of severe inequality?
- How do governments respond to collective action? How should they respond?
- How does participating in collective action affect the people involved in it?
- Does participating in social movements necessarily strengthen democracy?

Books

The books for this class are on sale at Dartmouth and Wheelock Books. They are also on 2-hour reserve in Baker-Berry Library.

Che Guevara, *Guerrilla Warfare*

Mark Danner, *Massacre at El Mozote*

Jeff Goodwin, *No Other Way Out*, pp. 3-66, 137-216

Elisabeth Wood, *Insurgent Collective Action*, Chs. 1, 4 and 8

Kay Warren, *Indigenous Movements and Their Critics*

Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women, Two Protests and the Quest for Recognition*

Articles and Films

The material for the course includes about 10 articles and 2 films. Links to the articles are posted on the Blackboard Web site. To download them, you'll need to use an on-campus computer or a VPN connection to the Dartmouth server. The films are texts that "count" as much as the books and articles; we will watch them in class and they will be on reserve in Jones Media Center.

Assignments

NB: Students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

1. *Reading quizzes*

20%

I will give a number of quizzes at random throughout the quarter. The purpose of the quizzes is to assess your comprehension of the assigned reading. Your grade will be based on your top five quiz grades; you can drop the lower grades.

2. *Social movement theory review* 5%

Write a 2-page review of social movement theory as articulated in the Meyer and Reyes article. Upload by 8am on Wednesday, April 3. The paper can be either single- or double-spaced, depending on how much you want to write.

3. *News summary* 5%

Identify a news issue relevant to Argentina, El Salvador, Cuba or Guatemala. Read at least 5 news articles on the topic and write a 2-page summary of the issue. Upload by 8am on Friday, April 19. The paper can be either single- or double-spaced, depending on how much you want to write.

4. *Midterm take-home paper* 30%

Write a 5-7 page paper answering one of a set of essay questions that will be handed out in class. The paper will be based exclusively on the material from class (readings, lectures and films). The questions will be distributed by Friday, April 26, and will be due one week later on Friday, May 3.

5. *Final take-home paper* 40%

Write a 7-10 page paper answering one of a set of essay questions that will be handed out in class. The paper will be based exclusively on the material from class (readings, lectures and films). The questions will be distributed by Friday, May 24. The paper is due by midnight on Saturday, June 2.

Class Outline

This schedule and the articles themselves can be found on the Blackboard site, under the heading “Daily Class Meetings.”

WEEK ONE

Read: *The Communist Manifesto* and article on social movement theory

Monday 3/25	Developing an Inductive Perspective on Social Movement Theory
Wednesday 3/27	Lecture on Communist Manifesto
Friday 3/29	Discussion

WEEK TWO: Revolutions need resources

Read: Che Guevara, *Guerrilla Warfare*; Mayer and Reyes article on social movement theory

Monday 4/1	Lecture: The Cliff Notes of Revolution?
Wednesday 4/3	Summary of social movement theory due by 8am today
Friday 4/5	NO CLASS TODAY

WEEK THREE: What were the revolutions in Central America all about?

Read: *The Massacre at El Mozote*

Monday 4/8	Lecture on Central America
Wednesday 4/10	Lecture on current legal case
Thursday 4/11	X-hour meets today
Friday 4/12	Discussion

WEEK FOUR: Liberation Theology

Watch Romero; read articles by Montgomery and by Chinchilla et al.

Monday 4/15	Lecture: The Catholic Church in Latin America
Wednesday 4/17	Lecture: From Liberation Theology to Pope Francis
Friday 4/19	News summary due by 8am today

WEEK FIVE: It's the state, not the people

Read: Jeffrey Goodwin, *No Other Way Out*, pp. 3-66, 137-216

Monday 4/22	Lecture: A State-Centered Perspective
Wednesday 4/24	Lecture: Why Revolution here, but not there?
Friday 4/26	Discussion

**Take-home midterm handed out today

WEEK SIX: It's the people, not the state

Read: Elisabeth Wood, *Insurgent Collective Action*, Chs. 1, 4 and 8

Monday 4/29	Lecture
Wednesday 5/1	Lecture
Friday 5/3	**Take-home midterm due

WEEK SEVEN: Movements relating to gender and sexuality

Read: Articles by Encarnación, Baldez, Bosco

Monday 5/6	Lecture: Women's Movements in Latin America
Wednesday 5/8	Lecture: Gender and Sexuality
Friday 5/10	Discussion

WEEK EIGHT: Creating an indigenous collective identity

Read: *Indigenous Movements and Their Critics*

Monday 5/13	Lecture: Indigenous Politics in Latin America
Wednesday 5/15	Indigenous Identity Formation
Friday 5/17	Discussion

WEEK NINE: Mobilization in the context of globalization

Read: *Contentious Lives*

Monday 5/20	Lecture: From State-led Growth to Neoliberalism
Wednesday 5/22	Lecture: The Argentine Crisis
Friday 5/24	Discussion

WEEK TEN: Wrapping Up

No reading

Monday 5/27	Memorial Day – No Class
Wednesday 5/29	Last Day of Class
Saturday 6/2	Final take-home paper due by midnight

Class Policies

1. **The Honor Principle.** All Dartmouth students have agreed to conduct themselves in accordance with the Standards of Conduct in general and with the Academic Honor Principle in particular. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize, you risk failing the class and having your case brought before the Committee on Standards. Read the code again, here: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/> We will discuss the ways in which the Honor Principle is relevant to the work you will do in class and I am more than happy to answer any questions you have about it.
2. **Class attendance** is required and there are no excused absences. Please arrive on time. I will assume you have done any reading assigned for class and I expect you to be able to discuss it. If you miss a class, you miss whatever discussion and learning we do that day. Class is a collective endeavor that cannot be "made up."
3. **X-Hours.** I will use x-hours on an "as needed" basis, to catch up if we get behind in our coverage of course material, to schedule meetings with visitors on campus, or to make up class if I am out sick. Some x-hours are already scheduled and on the syllabus. If I need to hold additional classes during x-hour, I will try to let you know a week in advance. I am usually available to meet with you during the x hour: just let me know in advance.
4. **Late assignments** (even an hour late) will be penalized one-third grade per day. This includes weekends. If you think you might have a problem with this, you should contact me before the assignment is due. If an emergency prevents you from handing in an

assignment in on time, please let me know as soon as you can, preferably before the due date. I will grant extensions only under extremely unusual circumstances.

5. **Blackboard web site.** This syllabus provides an overview of our schedule for the term, but the real structure of the course is the Blackboard web site. I use blackboard to post lecture outlines (*outlines*, i.e., not the full text), links that are relevant to material in class, announcements, copies of all handouts, regular feedback, and any changes to the schedule
6. **Using laptops and other electronic devices in class.** You may use your laptop to take notes during lectures, but not during discussions. You may not access email or the Internet during class.
7. **Learning Disabilities.** Students with disabilities enrolled in this course and who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me before the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.
8. **Religious Observance.** Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Criteria for Grading

A:

1. Excellent mastery of course material
2. Student performance indicates a very high degree of originality, creativity, or both
3. Excellent performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written
4. Student works independently with unusual effectiveness

B:

1. Good mastery of course material
2. Student performance demonstrates a high degree of originality, creativity, or both
3. Good performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written
4. Student works well independently

C:

1. Acceptable mastery of course material
2. Student demonstrates some degree of originality, creativity, or both
3. Acceptable performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written
4. Student works independently at an acceptable level

D:

1. Deficient in mastery of course material
2. Originality, creativity, or both apparently absent from performance
3. Deficient performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written
4. Ability to work independently deficient

E:

1. Serious deficiency in mastery of course material
2. Originality, creativity, or both clearly lacking
3. Seriously deficient performance in analysis, synthesis, and critical expression, oral or written
4. Cannot work independently

The following grade point values are assigned:

A, 4; A-, 3 2/3; B+, 3 1/3; B, 3; B-, 2 2/3; C+, 2 1/3; C, 2; C-, 1 2/3; D, 1; and E, 0.

From *Organization, Regulations and Courses*

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/regulations06/undergrad/degree-req.html>