



## **Optional Program Course: Sociopolitical History of Latin America Chilean Universities Program, Valparaiso**

The Political History of Latin America from the 19th to the 20th century is nothing but a search for political stability. There is no doubt that the Latin American unstable political structure is due to structural factors that respond mainly to socioeconomic and cultural factors. Caudillismos, populisms and dictatorships proliferate so that they make democracy harder to implant. And, for this reason, in Latin America it is easy to observe different positions regarding the role of the State and its relationship with the individual. In other words, the presence of an absolute liberalism (always associated with the right) against state interventionism (of the Left) that remind us of the ideological struggles of the Cold War.

### **Main objective:**

The course seeks for the student to understand that political organization that appears indistinctly in Latin American countries responds to an socioeconomic and psychological structure that makes political stability difficult, regardless of the regime to be installed, and even when an important number of Latin American countries- at the end of the last quarter of the 20th century- have attempted to generate more political participation and economic equality.

### **Secondary objectives:**

- That the student gains a wide understanding of the economic and psychological characteristics that Latin America possesses, given that these structures allow for the understanding of Latin American politics.
- That the student understands the origin and the theoretical and historical development of liberalism, socialism, communism, populism, dictatorships and democracy in Latin America. The student will value and critically judge these through some case studies.

### **Structure:**

The course is divided into three units:

- The first, the shortest one and that is introductory, given that it covers the process of conformation on nation states (19<sup>th</sup> century).
- The second, of socioeconomic character, that seeks to discover and understand Latin American economic reality that is characterized by extreme inequality, high unemployment, high inflation and constant intervention of the State in economic policies.
- The third one attempts to show Latin American political structures that range from a multi-party system to an extreme presidential rule, and that impede, in a sense, a healthy democracy.
- Finally, it must be indicated that the units always go along with case studies.

### **Methodology:**

The class will be lead in the form of a seminar, and given this, the active participation of the student is required.

Two methodologies will be used:

- Students will have to read a number of books and/or articles per thematic unit, which will be discussed along the course in a critical manner.

- Students will do a commented reading in class of an article of a chapter of a book. However, each session of the course will have a presentation by the professor so that students can then participate actively in class.
- Field work such as documentary showings and/or films. In fact, a visit to the Congress will be coordinated and if possible, a visit to a political party headquarters will be conducted.

### **Course contents:**

#### I-. Introductory unit: Independence and construction of the Nation States in Latin America

1. Creation of Nation States: sociocultural and political structuring of Latin America (regionalism, federalism, caudillismo, constitutionalism, Americanism)

#### II-. Theoretical Unit: Society and Economy

1. Economic, social and cultural structuring of Latin America:  
Inequality, poverty, inflation, "industrialization" (ISI), transnationals, liberalism, capitalism.

#### III-. Theoretical unity: Politics

1. Democracy and political parties
2. Left movements: communism, socialism
3. Worker's and union movements.
4. Populisms
5. Dictatorships
6. Post-Pinochet Chile

### **Evaluation:**

There are three instruments for their evaluation:

- Reading, class participation, outline (30%).
- A written essay (45%) that consists on the analysis and problematization of one of the topics seen in class. The student should, in a minimum of twelve pages, be able to conceptualize and problematize the chosen topic. For this they must turn in a brief work hypothesis and attempt to respond to it via the use of specialized bibliography (at least three texts). In formal aspects, it must be remembered that all assignment must be creative and original, entirely written by the student, with bibliographical citations properly cited in the text, indicating the author, title and page number (it is important to point out that at least three texts will be required). This is for direct citations, which should ALWAYS be between quotes; as well as, paraphrasing or original ideas of another author, regardless of the bibliographic source of origin, including internet. All plagiarizing will be receive the lowest grade possible, which is a 1.0. Finally, the font to be used is Times New Roman or Arial Narrow (12), double-spaced.
- An oral or written evaluation (25%) made up of a conceptual evaluation by the professor of the topics covered in class.

**In any case, evaluation can be modified as long as an agreement is reached with the professor and the student.**

### **Passing:**

Students pass with a grade 4.0 and must have at least 80% attendance.

### **General bibliography:**

Álvarez, M., *Líderes políticos del siglo XX en América Latina*, edit. LOM, 2007, Santiago.

Arriagada, G., *De la vía chilena a la vía insurreccional*, edit. Del Pacífico, Santiago, 1974.

Campero, G., *El sindicalismo latinoamericano en los noventa*, 4v. edit. Planeta, 1991.

\*Castañeda, J., *Utopía desarmada: intrigas, dilemas y promesa de la izquierda en América Latina*, edit. Ariel, 1993, Buenos Aires.

Collier, D., *El nuevo autoritarismo en América Latina*, edit. Fondo de Cultura Económica, México, 1994.

Davis, N., *The last two years of Salvador Allende*, edit. Cornell University Press, EEUU, 1985.

Di Tella, T., *Historia de los partidos políticos de América Latina, siglo XX*, edit. Siglo XXI, 1997, Chile.

Drake, P., [Socialismo y populismo: Chile 1936-1973](#), edit. U.C.V., Valparaíso, 1992.

Encina, F., *Nuestra inferioridad económica*, edit. Universitaria, 1955, Santiago.

Edwards, A., *La fronda aristocrática*, edit. Santiago, 1991, Santiago.

\*Edwards, S., *Populismos o mercados*, trad: María Mercedes Correa y Paula Botero, edit. Norma, 2009, Colombia.

Giddens, A., *The third way: the renewal of social democracy*, edit. Polity Press, EEUU, 1999.

\*Góngora, M., *Ensayo histórico sobre la noción de estado en Chile en los siglos XIX y XX*, edit. Universitaria, 1993, Santiago.

\*Lynch, J., *América Latina, entre colonia y nación*, edit. Crítica, 2001, Barcelona.

Lynch, J., *Las revoluciones hispanoamericanas, 1808-1826*, edit. Ariel, 1980, Barcelona.

Lynch, J., *Caudillos en hispanoamérica: 1800-1850*, edit. Mapfre, 1993, Madrid.

Mainwaring, S., Scully, T., *La construcción de instituciones democráticas*, trad: Fermín Donoso, edit. Cieplan, 1995, Chile.

Mariategui, J., *Siete ensayos de interpretación de la realidad peruana*, edit. Biblioteca Ayacucho, 1995.

Marx, K., *Manifiesto comunista*, edit. Alianza, 2001.

O'Donnell, P., *Transición desde un Régimen Autoritario*, edit. Paidós, Buenos Aires, 1988.

\*Pinto, A., *Hacia nuestra independencia económica*, edit. Pacífico, 1953, Santiago.

Pizarro, C., *La huelga obrera en Chile*, edit. Sur, 1986, Santiago.

Sartori, G., *¿Qué es la democracia?*, trad: Miguel Ángel Rodríguez y María Cristina Pestellini, edit. Taurus, 2003, Buenos Aires.

Scully, Timothy. *Partidos de centro y la evolución política chilena*. CIEPLAN-NOTREDAME. Santiago, Región Metropolitana de Santiago, Chile, 1992.

Schumpeter, J., *Capitalism, socialism and democracy*, edit. Unwin University Books, U.K, 1952.

Von Hayek, F., [Road to serfdom](#), edit. Routledge, London, 1976.

Wallerstein, I., *Después del liberalismo*, edit. Siglo XXI, México, 1993.

**Note: The professor will specify at some point the pages and/or chapters that will be read. It is important highlight that when books shown that are in English, can also be found in Spanish. Regarding the books that appear with an asterisk, those are the ones that can be reviewed.**