FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MA In Interdisciplinary Latin American Studies

MODULE GUIDE

SOC 8100 Politics of Development
and Social Struggle in Latin America

2009-2010

Venues: BEDTC.L.G.37 (seminars 1-7)
BEDTC.1.48 (seminars 8-10)

Date and time: Mondays 16:00-18:00pm

Module leader: Prof. José Esteban Castro

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology
Claremont Bridge Building
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# Seminar Schedule

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**Teaching team (in alphabetical order):**

Castro, José Esteban, Sociology (Module Leader) – j.e.castro@ncl.ac.uk – Web page: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/j.e.castro](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/j.e.castro)

Davis, Matt, Politics, matt.davies@newcastle.ac.uk – Web page: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/matt.davies](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/matt.davies)

Laurie, Nina, Geography, nina.laurie@newcastle.ac.uk – Web page: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/nina.laurie](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/gps/staff/profile/nina.laurie) (on research leave this year)

Oliart, Patricia, Modern Languages (sociology), patricia.oliart@newcastle.ac.uk – Web page: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/staff/profile/patricia.oliart](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sml/staff/profile/patricia.oliart)
Politics of Development and Social Struggle in Latin America

This module examines issues of development in Latin America since the 1940s by exploring key social science debates on the topic in the light of historical and contemporary evidence. It explores the theoretical debates on the concepts of development, underdevelopment, dependent development, and post-development, and the history of development thinking and practice in Latin America. We place emphasis on the interrelations between development policy and practice and the processes of social struggle in the context of rapid social change brought about by the urbanization, industrialization, political modernization, and globalization.

Module Aims

To provide students with an advanced knowledge, critical engagement and systematic understanding of:

- Scholarly work reflecting the state of the art on the politics of development and the social struggles connected with development processes in Latin America;
- Economic, historical, geographical, political and social trends and specificities related to the topic, focusing on regional and local examples.

Among other aspects we may discuss:

- The socio-historical dimension of development as a political project
- Economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of development
- The contribution of Latin American social scientists to the “development/underdevelopment” debate
- Similarities and differences in development thinking and policies across countries and regions
- The politics of development; development, democracy, and dictatorship
- The interlinkages between development and environment
- The interconnections between ideological and cultural aspects of development discourse and practice
- Social and political struggles connected with development policies and processes

Teaching Methods

Seminars, student presentations, group work.

Readings

Each seminar comes with a list of essential and further reading. I would like to stress that you should not feel bound by these references, particularly when reading for and writing your assignment. The idea is that the suggested reading will give you an entry into the topic, but you should also search for additional materials.
Assessment

One 5000-word essay. The essay would be ideally based on a topic related to the student’s dissertation. It should draw on theoretical and empirical materials seen in the module. However, it is recommended that the students make their own research for suitable texts and materials, reflecting topics of their own interest even if they have not been addressed in the module. These materials should reflect a social science approach to the chosen topic (if in doubt, consult the module leader).

For advice on essay writing, including referencing, please check the relevant library’s web pages: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/teaching/stan/?child_id=7](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/teaching/stan/?child_id=7). The quality of the essay structure and referencing will be taken into account in evaluating the essays.

You will have to submit a brief essay plan (150-200 words) indicating the topic chosen and discuss it in advance with the module leader.

**Deadline for the Essay Plan:** x May 2010

Your assignment should be submitted by **12:00pm on Friday x May 2010** to both the GPS School Office on the 5th Floor of Claremont Tower and Turnitin. You must hand in all of the following documents to the GPS School Office or your work will not be accepted:

- One copy of your completed piece of work.
- One valid Turnitin receipt.
- One completed ‘MA Written Assessment Submission and Feedback Form’ (copies of which are available from the GPS School Office, 5th Floor, Claremont Tower).

The Clerical Officer (Postgraduate Taught) in charge is Karyn McCloud. She can be contacted at karyn.mccloud@ncl.ac.uk, on 0191 222 7200 or in the GPS School Office which is situated on the 5th Floor of Claremont Tower. The GPS School Office is open from Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. If you come to the GPS School Office with a specific query about your programme, modules, timetable, etc, please let the receptionist know that you would like to speak directly to Karyn.

**IMPORTANT:** The provisional marks for any assessed component of a module are distributed with comments using a standard form. The standard practice is for marks and feedback sheets to be distributed within 4 term time weeks of submission deadlines. You will be emailed when the feedback and mark for your essay are available.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

You will have to submit your essay through the TURNITIN system, and then hand in a hard copy of the essay with a cover sheet and a TURNITIN receipt to the GPS School Office.
For GPS students, the feedback and marks would be available from the GPS School Office. For non-GPS students, the feedback will be available from their own school’s office.

**Access to TURNITIN is from your Blackboard account. See details at the end of this module outline.**

| Please, see final page of this outline regarding the submission guidelines. |
SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Seminar one: 25-1-10 - BEDTC.L.G.37

The politics of development in historical perspective. Social change and social struggle in Latin America

Prof. José Esteban Castro

This is an introductory session aimed at mapping the broad trends of development thinking and practice in Latin America since the 1940s. It places ‘development’ in its historical context, looking at the interlinkages between the politics of the development, development theories and policies, and wider socio-historical processes such as decolonization, the expansion of US hegemony after World War II, or the re-emergence of radical political actors connected with the rapid urbanization and industrialization experienced by Latin American countries since the 1950s.

Essential Reading


Webster, Andrew (1990), Introduction to the Sociology of Development (2nd edition), Houndmills: Macmillan (chapters 3 and 4).

Further Reading


Additional materials (in Spanish and Portuguese):


Theories of development and underdevelopment

Dr Matt Davies

This seminar focuses on the theory of development, rather than more particularly on the policies and practices that have been used to promote development in Latin America. Our immediate purpose in this seminar is, following Escobar, to critique the notion of development. What forms of knowledge and what techniques of power constitute “development”? What kind of problem is poverty? What is an “underdeveloped” economy? What does the notion of “post-development” entail politically? Escobar provides a good overview of the various theoretical and disciplinary approaches to development but if you feel you need more background, browse the supplemental readings.

Essential Reading:


Supplemental readings:


Gender, class, and ethnic cleavages in Latin America’s development politics

Dr Patricia Oliart
The regional specificities of development policies: the Andean region, the Southern Cone, Brazil, Mexico

Prof. José Esteban Castro

This seminar explores the specific characteristics of development policies and debates in Latin America at the regional level. It looks at explanations of convergence and divergence in the “development” paths followed by different countries and regions. Among other issues that may be covered are the usefulness of path-dependency theory for explaining the inter-country and inter-regional differences in Latin America’s development and the relative weight of ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, political or geographic-natural factors in producing these specificities. The students will be asked to choose one country or region and using some of the materials suggested below (or similar that you can identify in your research for this module) make a 10-15 minutes presentation on the topic, to be followed by a group discussion.

Suggested readings to choose from for the presentations:


Cardoso, Fernando H. and Enzo Faletto (1979), Dependency and Development in Latin America, Berkeley: University of California Press.


Additional materials (in Spanish and Portuguese):


Development policy and social exclusion in Latin America

Dr Patricia Oliart
Dictatorship, democracy and the politics of development in Latin America

Matt Davies

In the 1970s and 1980s, nearly all of Latin America was under some form of dictatorship, typically under ruthless military regimes. The exhaustion of these regimes, brought about by economic difficulties, popular protests and resistance, and declining international support and coincidental with the collapse of the Soviet bloc, led to what the American political scientist Samuel Huntington referred to as a “third wave” of democratisation. Much of South America is now governed by progressive, social democrat or nominally Socialist governments yet they rule under constitutions and forms of government instituted under military rule. So what do we mean by “democracy” in the contemporary Latin American context? Is it more important to stabilize institutions of democracy or to increase participation? How should the rights of minorities and marginal communities be regarded? Is corruption a more or less serious problem under democracies? This seminar will examine the state of democracy and democratisation in several Latin American countries. For further background about military rule, browse the supplemental readings.

Essential readings:

Chile


Uruguay

Bolivia

Venezuela


Governing the city


Supplemental readings:


Manuel Antonio Garretón (2003), Incomplete Democracy: Political Democratization in Chile and Latin America (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press)


Seminar Seven: 8-3-10 - BEDTC.L.G.37

Hegemonic and counter hegemonic globalization and the politics of development in Latin America

Matt Davies

Picking up on Escobar’s notion of “post-development”, this seminar looks at both how the international development banks, agencies and organizations have changed their practices in the wake of criticism and crisis and how other, “grassroots” or “bottom-up” organizations have sought to bring about political, economic, and social change and poverty relief. What are the prospects and the limits to the reform of international development agencies? What are the “unintended consequences” of changes in development policy? What “post-development” alternatives present themselves in contemporary Latin America? What are the prospects and the limits for “bottom up” development and for popular participation?

Required readings:


Supplemental readings:


Seminar Eight: 19-04-10 - BEDTC.1.48

The environment-development interface in Latin America

Prof. José Esteban Castro

This seminar addresses the interlinkages between environmental factors and processes and development. In particular, it aims at exploring how (if) the notions of environmental constraints, ecological limits, and environmental sustainability are incorporated in development thinking and practice. The students will be asked to choose one country or region and using some of the materials suggested below (or similar that you can identify in your research for this module) make a 10-15 minutes presentation on the topic, to be followed by a group discussion.

Suggested readings to choose from for the presentations:


Laurie, Nina (ed.) (2007), Geoforum, Special Issue on “‘Pro-poor’ water? The privatization and global poverty debate” Vol. 38, No 5.


See also articles from:

Journal of Political Ecology: Case Studies in History and Society
http://jpe.library.arizona.edu/jpeweb.html.

Additional materials (in Spanish and Portuguese):

Castro, José Esteban, and Miguel Lacabana (2005), Special Issue on “Agua y Desarrollo en América Latina” (Water and Development in Latin America), Cuadernos del CENDES, No 59, Caracas: Centre for Development Studies, Central University of Venezuela (2005). The dossier features articles on Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and Venezuela.


See also articles from:


Seminar Nine: 26-04-10 - BEDTC.1.48

Social struggles and the democratization of development policy

Dr Patricia Oliart
The cultural and ideological dimensions of the politics of development

Prof. José Esteban Castro

The final seminar will look in more detail at the influence of cultural and ideological traditions on development thinking and practices. Among other issues it will look at the reception in Latin American development issues of European and North American traditions such as Liberalism, Marxism, or Functionalism, and the emergence of autonomous schools of development thought in Latin America such as Liberation Theology and the Pedagogy of the Oppressed among other issues. The students will be asked to choose one country or region and using some of the materials suggested below (or similar that you can identify in your research for this module) make a 10-15 minutes presentation on the topic, to be followed by a group discussion.

Suggested readings to choose from for the presentations:


How to Submit your Written Work to TurnitinUK using Blackboard

Introduction

Newcastle University is committed to encouraging good academic conduct and fair assessment. To these ends, the University subscribes to TurnitinUK (the JISC Plagiarism Detection Service). This software permits academic staff to carry out comparisons of students’ work with that of other students and with other print and electronic sources.

**GPS requires that all written assessments are submitted to Blackboard, which in turn uploads your written work to TurnitinUK** so that we can attempt to ensure that no student gains an unfair advantage over another by plagiarising someone else’s work, submitting the same work for more than one assessment or by purchasing or downloading assessments over the internet.

This document aims to provide a step-by-step guide to submitting your written work via the Blackboard system.

In order to make a full submission of written work to the GPS Office, you must submit your work with:

1. An appropriate completed feedback sheet
2. A Turnitin Digital receipt (which can be obtained by following the steps contained within this guide).

**Using Blackboard to submit your written work:**

You can find Blackboard online at [https://blackboard.ncl.ac.uk/webapps/login/](https://blackboard.ncl.ac.uk/webapps/login/)

A comprehensive Student User Guide can be found at [Insert new link]
Log into Blackboard

Go to: https://blackboard.ncl.ac.uk/webapps/login/

1. Enter your University User name and Password (the same user name and password you use to log into your University Email account).

2. Click ‘Login’

Select Module you wish to submit an assignment for

3. Select the module you wish to submit to from the list of modules in the ‘My Modules’ box (to the right of the screen)

4. Select ‘Assignments’ from the menu on the left of the screen:
5. Click on folder titled ‘Turnitin Submissions’

6. Select the correct assignment for which you are about to submit written work for (you may be required to submit more than one piece of written work for each module).

7. Click ‘View/Complete’ on the assignment for which you are submitting written work for.

This will then take you to the TurnitinUK submission page.

8. From here click on ‘submit paper’ button (White piece of paper with green cross):
9. **Complete the Following Fields:**

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<tr>
<th>Drop Down box/Subject Heading</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Choose a paper submission method</td>
<td>From the drop down box select or leave as ‘single file upload’</td>
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<td>First name</td>
<td>Your name will automatically appear</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Name</td>
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<td>Submission Title</td>
<td>Enter your submission title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Browse for file to upload</td>
<td>Click on the ‘Browse’ Button</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

10. Select the relevant file you wish to upload

11. Click ‘Upload’

12. Your file will be uploaded to TurnitinUK and you will be taken to the preview page:
13. Scroll down to the bottom of the page, ensure you are happy with what you are about to submit and click ‘Submit’.

You will be taken to the page with your digital receipt contained within it.

14. From here print **ONLY** the first page (page 1 of 1) from the print menu – this will ensure that only the first page of your receipt is printed, and not the entire essay!

15. You will also be emailed your digital receipt, and this can be printed from your inbox should you not wish to print straight from the Digital Receipt Screen.