Politics of Latin America
POLSCI 328.01
Fall 2018 · Dr. Wendy Godek

Research Paper and Poster Presentation Assignment

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT
For this assignment, you are required to write a 3,000 word research paper (+/- 250 words) on a topic of your choice related to Latin American politics in the post-WWII era and prepare a poster presentation that summarizes the key points of your paper in a thoughtful and engaging way. Your paper will: 1) describe the topic you chose and provide historical background to the topic; 2) link the topic to the broader issues of democratic consolidation, governance, and/or economic development models; and 3) discuss the significance of the topic for the broader Latin American region. Your poster presentation will provide a summary of this information. This assignment is worth 30% of your grade. After selecting a topic, follow the steps for completing the assignment outlined below.

STEPS FOR COMPLETING ASSIGNMENT
1. Choose a topic and submit at least four sources you plan to consult to write the paper.
   - You must use a minimum of five sources: You must consult/reference a minimum of two scholarly sources, including academic books or journal articles. The rest may be a combination of course materials (textbook, readings, etc.) and articles/documents from reliable and credible news outlets, websites, (international) organizations, government documents, or official reports or statistics (including the article listed for each topic below). Follow suggestions concerning how to evaluate the quality of your source from this Purdue OWL resource page: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/1/.
   - You may need to consult more than five sources in total for your paper and additional sources may include additional non-scholarly sources as appropriate.
   - All websites must be approved by the instructor via email (i.e., send me the link to the website and the instructor will send you back a verdict). If you have any questions regarding sources, and what is and is not appropriate, please ask me.
   - The Research Paper Topic and Preliminary Sources form, available in the folder for this assignment, needs to be completed and submitted to the instructor for approval no later than Thursday, November 1st, by 9pm via Bridges. Use the Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date citation system to format the bibliographic references for your proposed sources.
   - Approval of topics will be granted no later than Monday, November 5th, so that you can get started on your paper outlines right away. Failure to submit this the Research Paper Topic and Preliminary Sources Form on time will result in a 5 percentage-point deduction from the final paper grade.

2. Once your topic is approved, prepare an outline for your paper.
   - Prepare your outline according to the three components of the essay described above (description of topic and background, link to democratic consolidation/governance/economic development, and significance for Latin American region).
   - Start by consulting your textbook or other course materials to see if there is anything relevant on your topic. Then start reading additional sources on your topic. Different sources may have different opinions about the topic – it is helpful to discuss these perspectives in your paper and why they might vary. Be sure to consult the bibliographies of the sources you consult – often you can find additional valuable sources that way.
• For each section of your outline, provide details about the points you will discuss in that section of your paper and identify the source of your information for each point. Include the page number so you can easily find the information again when writing your paper. This will help you to remember where your information came from and which source to consult for information about specific details.

• The outline is due no later than Sunday, November 11th, by 9pm via Bridges

3. Write a 3,000 word paper (+/- 250 words), not including title page and bibliography, on the topic you selected using the outline to help you. As mentioned above, your paper must discuss the following:

A. Description of the topic. A good way to approach this is to think about how you would explain the topic to someone who does not know anything about it. What would be important to include in your discussion in order to provide this person with enough information to get a good understanding of topic? Why is this topic important? How did this topic come about? What background information is necessary for understanding the current issue? What pieces of information are essential?

B. Link the topic to the broader issues of democratic consolidation, governance, and/or economic development models: We spent a lot of time in this course studying democratization, the challenge of democratic governance in Latin America, and different economic development models. Does the topic of your paper relate to democratization, governance, or economic development? If so, how? For example, what are the implications of the topic of your paper for democracy and democratic governance? Are there any implications for economic development? Does political or socioeconomic inequality play a role in your study? Think about the different challenges and opportunities for democracy we studied in this course, as well as the types of economic development models (neoliberalism vs. state-centered models). It is okay if your topic does not link to all of these – do not reach for a way to link the topic to one of these areas if it does not.

C. Significance of the topic for the broader Latin American region: In this last part of the paper, you need to explore the significance of this topic and its potential outcomes for the Latin American region as a whole. How could it affect the broader politics of the region? How and why is the topic significant? If it isn’t significant, why?

4. Prepare a poster presentation of your topic.

• The poster should summarize information from the three sections of your paper and include the bibliography.

• Prepare and practice presenting your poster. Have a five-minute presentation ready to give to the class.

• Please include photos, images, and maps – anything that will make the information come alive! You can include a box that lists suggested websites or further reading, or even videos.

• Be creative and have fun! Think of innovative ways to teach your peers about what you learned.

PAPER GRADING
You will be graded on how well you address the elements/questions outlined above in your paper. Be sure that you cover them all. Be succinct in your writing and get straight to the point. Organize your paper well and write clearly. Papers that receive high grades will have met all these guidelines, moved beyond them, and clearly demonstrate critical analysis. The paper is worth 25% of your grade.
POSTER PRESENTATION GRADING
You will be graded on how well and how thoughtfully you convey the key messages from your paper in your poster. The poster is worth 5% of your grade and your grade will be calculated in part from student evaluations of your poster and presentation and in part from my own assessment.

DUE DATES
Submit all items (except the Poster Presentation) as MS Word Documents and upload through Bridges.

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Topics and Preliminary Bibliography</td>
<td>Thursday, November 1st, by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Outline</td>
<td>Sunday, November 11th, by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Papers</td>
<td>Thursday, December 6th, by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Presentations</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 11th (in-class)</td>
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Good luck!

😊 Be CREATIVE 😊 Have FUN 😊 Choose an INTERESTING topic 😊

Remember to…
• Review the plagiarism warning in the syllabus.
• Stay within the assigned word count.
• Prepare an outline that reflects good organization and a coherent structure.
• Use sub-headings to organize your paper.
• Cite, cite, cite!
• Include a bibliography with consistently and correctly formatted citations – use Chicago Manual of Style Author-Date System to format your in-text citations and bibliographic references.
Possible Research Paper Topics

*Here are some possible topics. A link to a recommended article is available for each topic so that you can get a better idea of the issue.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Article Link</th>
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