

## ***Contemporary tendencies in Latin America in the era of globalization*** **Course Syllabus**

*Natalia Ruiz, PhD*

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:00- 18:00*

*Course outline:* The purpose of this course, taught in Spanish, is to offer students a foundational knowledge of the development of the Latin American region, including the political, economic, cultural and social dimensions, in order to understand the current tendencies that define the region in terms of its challenges and opportunities in the era of globalization. This is particularly useful for those who aim to interact with Latin America in the future, in the world of business, international organizations, NGOs or diplomacy.

Upon completion of the course, students will have an understanding of: 1) the historical and political, socio-economic and environmental construction of Latin American in the era of globalization; 2) the regional integration of Latin America and with other regions of the world, with a special emphasis on China; 3) identify the challenges and opportunities of globalization in terms of the social, political and environmental changes in the region.

*Session topics:*

1. State formation in Latin America, “colonialism, strongmen, conservatives versus liberals”.
2. Latin American states in the era of globalization and their relations with indigenous groups: from plurinational states to complex relations within the extractivist development model.
3. The economic models in Latin America: from the Cold War to Globalization.
4. The relationship between Latin America and the United States.
5. The relationship between Latin America and the European Union.
6. The relationship between Latin America and Asia, with an emphasis on China.
7. Challenges and opportunities in Latin America: the most unequal region in the world, poverty and inequality, and social movements.
8. Challenges and opportunities in Latin America: environmental conflicts and the extractivist development model.

*Teaching methodology:* The course will comprise presentations, discussions, and audiovisual material, and will offer students the opportunity to focus on one subject, productive sector or specific country by preparing a *working paper* and presenting this in class.

Participation and student discussions are fundamental for this course, and students are required to have read texts assigned for each topic. In sessions 7 and 8, students will present their *working paper*, which will be evaluated. This activity gives students the opportunity to select a topic of personal interest, focusing on a subject related to the course, and apply their abilities to research, analyse and communicate.

*Assessment:*

Participation and reading controls (40%)

Case study (20%)

## Working paper (40%)

### *Essential readings (will be supplied online):*

- Chasteen, John Charles (2006). *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. 2nd ed. London: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Stepan, Nancy Leys (1991). *The Hour of Eugenics: Race, Gender, and Nation in Latin America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Skidmore, Thomas E., & Peter H. Smith (2005). *Modern Latin America*, 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Acemoglu, D., & Robinson, J. (2012). *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. New York: Crown Business.
- Arnson, Cynthia, Jorge Heine & Christine Zaino (Eds.). (2014). *Reaching Across the Pacific: Latin America and Asia in the New Century*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center.
- Bonilla Soria, Adrian & Paz Milet García (Eds.). (2015). *China en América Latina y el Caribe: Escenarios estratégicos subregionales*. San José FLACSO, CAF.
- González, Carmen G. (2010). China en América Latina: derecho, economía y desarrollo sostenible. *Revista de Derecho Privado*, 44 (julio-diciembre).
- González-Vicente, Rubén (2013). "Development Dynamics of Chinese Resource-Based Investment in Peru and Ecuador." *Latin American Politics and Society*, 55(1).
- Koch-Weser, Iacob N. (2015). *China's Energy Engagement in Latin America: A Review of Recent Findings*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Dialogue.
- Lo Brutto, Giuseppe & Cruz Humberto González (2015). La influencia china en la cooperación Sur-Sur Latinoamericana. *Documentos de Trabajo sobre cooperación y desarrollo* (07).
- Trápaga Delfín, Yolanda (Ed.) (2013). *América Latina y el Caribe-China: Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente*. México, DF: Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe.

### *Recommended (supplementary) readings:*

- Bartesaghi, Ignacio (Ed.) (2014). *Las relaciones comerciales entre América Latina y Asia Pacífico: Desafíos y Oportunidades*. Montevideo: Observatorio América Latina-Asia Pacífico.
- CEPAL. (2014). *La Inversión Extranjera Directa en América Latina y el Caribe*. Santiago de Chile: United Nations.
- Creutzfeldt, Benjamin (Ed.) (2012). *China en América Latina: Reflexiones sobre las relaciones transpacificas*. Bogota: Universidad Externado de Colombia.
- Dussel Peters, Enrique (Ed.) (2014). *La inversión extranjera directa de China en América Latina: 10 estudios de caso*. Mexico, DF: Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe.
- Myers, Margaret & Carol Wise (Eds.). (2016). *The Political Economy of China-Latin American Relations*. New York: Routledge.