

Short Syllabus
POL 387
LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
Professor Robert E. Biles -- Fall 2007 in AB1 306 at 1-2 MWF – 3 Credit Hours

TEXTS: Vanden, Harry E., and Gary Prevost. *Politics of Latin America: The Power Game*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Camp, Roderic Ai. *Politics in Mexico: The Democratic Consolidation*, 5th ed.
New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

ELECTRONIC RESERVE and BLACKBOARD: The **full syllabus** and **items not in the textbooks** will be on Electronic Reserve and, as much as possible, Blackboard . **Copy them** and bring the syllabus to class each period. It will be helpful. You can access Blackboard from the first page of the Sam webpage (www.shsu.edu) using your student account info. For Electronic Reserve, start at the Sam homepage, click Newton Grisham Library, then Course Reserve (under Services on the left), Electronic Reserves, and finally Electronic Reserves and Reserves Pages. Select Political Science or Robert Biles in the boxes. This course is POL 387. The password is _____. You will need PDF (Adobe Acrobat) to download the material. Adobe is available on the university system or can be downloaded free at home.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The course will involve a combination of lecture and discussion. **Students are expected to have read the assigned material** prior to class so as to be able to participate in class discussion. There will be two non-comprehensive examinations, a comprehensive final, a term paper, and a series of debates. The exams are essay-type. The course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam #1	20%	90-100 = A	Average rounded at .5
Exam #2	20	80- 89 = B	(Thus, 89.5 = A)
Final	20	70 -79 = C	
Term Paper	30	60 -69 = D	
Debate & Class Participation	10	0 -59 = F	

Paper topics must be approved by the instructor. Students should **consult** with the instructor **by** Fri., Aug. 31 on their general interests, submit a specific paper **topic in writing by** Sept. 7, and turn in the **finished paper by** Oct. 17. **Revised papers** may be turned in **up to** Nov. 16. (Note that you **must do the early version** of the paper to turn in a revision later.)

Map test. On **Aug. 29**, there will be a map test in which the student will have to name the nations and capitals of Latin America on a blank map. If there are more than two errors, the test must be retaken until passed satisfactorily. See p. xx of V&P. Know all those shown except Barbados, Grenada, & Bahamas. You do not have to know the capitals of the French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana, or Belize.

CONTACT: AB1 315H. Tel. 936-294-1460; fax 936-294-4172 (address the cover page to me; this number is for all of political science); e-mail **GOV_REB@SHSU.EDU** (yes, I do check e-mail daily). **Office hours:** T-days 11-11:30, 4; M-days 11:30-12:30; M-Th 4-5. (Please don't come to the office in the 15 minutes just before class; after class is fine.) Hours by appointment or drop-in. I am here most of every day till 6. Do not feel limited to official office hours; come see me when you need help. Enter the political science suite through 315K (by the glass wall).

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: READ: Vanden & Prevost (V&P), Introduction (xiv-xix) & Chap. 1 & 12.