



Security in Latin America

Despite social improvements in the first decades of the 21st century, Latin America remains the most unequal and most insecure region in the world. While homicide rates reduced in other regions, they increased in Latin America and its citizens identified crime and violence as their main concern. According to the Gallup's Law and Order Index, residents of Latin America and the Caribbean continue to be the least likely to feel secure in their communities. Citizen's sense of insecurity and lack of confidence in the police to protect them was worse in Venezuela (14%) than in war-torn Afghanistan (32%) and Syria (32%).

Spring Semester 2023

JPM772

6 ECTS

Lecturer

Mgr. Kateřina Březinová, Ph.D. katerina.brezinova@fsv.cuni.cz

Instruction:

Tuesday 17:00 - 18:20

ROOM 313 Pekařská / JINONICE

ZOOM LATIN AMERICAN SECURITY Spring 2023:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://cuni-cz.zoom.us/j/96898458984?pwd=NnVZMctiR1lnNWRnRGdaV3N2R2svZz09>

Meeting ID: 968 9845 8984

Passcode: 565122

Office hours

Tuesday March 14, April 4 and April 18/2023 from 16:00-17:00 Pekařská Office No. 403 or ONLINE

Course requirements

The students' performance in the course will be assessed based on these criteria:

- Group presentation (30 %)
- Final essays (50 %)
- Attendance and Activity in the Class (20 %)

Group Presentations (30% of the grade)

The group presentations will take place during the second half of the course. The aim of the presentation is to collectively research and then present a specific case study elaborating one of the aspects of human security in Latin America of the group's choice.

The presentation shall focus on presenting the case, its larger context and the main actors involved, as well as the strategies they espouse.

Formal aspects: Each presentation will be 15-20 minutes long. It must include a power point presentation and a 1-2-page long summary. Both must be sent to the tutor at least one day prior the presentation. A sign-up sheet for the group presentations will be available the second session of the course.

Final Essay (50% of the grade)

The final essay must address one of the following themes:

- Personal Security in Latin America
- Economic Security in Latin America
- Environmental Security in Latin America
- Community Security in Latin America
- Political Security in Latin America

The final essay consists of a case study regarding one of the aforementioned aspects of human security in Latin America that must not be identical to any of the case studies previously presented by groups in the class. It analyses both its larger political and social context as well as the main actors involved and their strategies on local, regional, state and international level.

Extension: 3500-3800 words (incl. references, excl. bibliography)

The final essay is due **May 25, 2023** and must be sent to katerina.brezinova@fsv.cuni.cz no earlier than on May 24, 2023 and no later than on May 25, 2023. I kindly ask you to respect also the earliest possible submission deadline. The results (incl. overall course result) will be delivered to each student no later than in 10 working days after the submission deadline. Potential delays have a negative effect on the grade.

Attendance/Activity (20% of the grade)

All students are required to participate on sessions. Class participation should show mastery of the readings. One unexcused absence will be tolerated, more absences will be considered on an individual basis.

Course description

The course seeks to provide students with a solid, interdisciplinary understanding of crucial human security-related issues in the region of Latin America.

The first decade of the 21st century gave Latin America much to celebrate. Open markets and largely stable economic policies enabled the region to take advantage of surging commodity prices and global demand. Several Latin American countries shined on the world stage, becoming important participants in multilateral institutions and forums: Brazil as a leader of a UN mission on Haiti with a claim for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council; Mexico as the fastest growing commercial partner for the U.S.; Chile as a “Pacific gateway” to Latin America.

Despite some remarkable economic and social improvements in the first decade of the 21st century, however, no region of the world has more inequality than Latin America and the Caribbean nor does any have a higher level of criminal violence. While homicide rates reduced in other regions, it actually increased in the last two decades in Latin America.

The framework of human security and its various dimensions is applied to analyze security in Latin America in this course. The challenges to security can vary from region to region, nation to nation, and manifest in different ways depending on specific cultural, historic, gender, ethnic and socioeconomic conditions. However, several main overlapping threats that impact the security in the region have been identified, such as the street crime; violence and crime committed by and against the youth; gender-based violence; corruption; violence committed by state actors and organized crime.

Following the introductory overview that surveys the themes embedded in the historical experience in order to gain a clearer understanding of security challenges in contemporary Latin America, the course proceeds to focus on a selected number of specific issues that societies of Latin America are facing today in terms of human (in)security.

Aims of the course

After completing the course, students shall be able to understand:

- Develop a critical understanding of Latin America’s security challenges of today;

- Gain a clear understanding of the structural and specific processes that make Latin American countries' most acute challenges into the 21st century be inequality and violence;
- Based on specific case studies, students gain skills to analyze and contextualize some of the specific human security challenges in Latin America and the measures taken in these particular cases;
- Be aware of the existing policy proposals and measures introduced to reduce citizen insecurity in Latin America both on the national and international levels;

Weekly schedule:

1. Introduction - February 14/2023

The introductory lesson will explain the aims and structure of the course and specify the requirements for passing the course.

Geopolitics in Latin America; Sub-regional and country specific differences; Main global and security issues relating to Latin America.

2. Different "securities" in Latin America – February 21/2023

Theoretical approaches to security in Latin America. Contribution of Latin American scholarship and practice to the field of security studies. Different Securities: traditional and non-traditional threats to the regional security in Latin America.

Reading:

Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): Security Studies and Security in Latin America, Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security, Routledge, New York, pp.11-29 (SIS)

Nolte, Detlef, Wehner, Leslie E. Geopolitics in Latin America, Old and New in Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security, Routledge, New York, pp.33-43 (SIS)

Thies Cameron, Traditional Security, War and Peace in Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security, Routledge, New York, pp. 113-125 (SIS)

3. Human security in Latin America - February 28/2022

Charles University
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Security Studies

Regional context and main issues of human security in Latin America. Main sources to assess human security in Latin America.

Reading:

UNDP, Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America, Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014, pp. 1-12 and 75-86, https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/human_development/info_rme-regionalde-desarrollo-humano2013-2014/

Goldstein, Daniel: Citizen Security and Human Security in Latin America in Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security, Routledge, New York, pp.138-147 (SIS)

4. Political security in Latin America. Responding to threats – March 7/2023

From traditional security issues confronting states of Latin America in their international relations to the domestic challenges to regime stability. Contestation of the state's monopoly of force, guerrilla movements, cultural survival of minority groups within the nations, ability of individual citizens to live and work without fear of criminals or government. The Russian government's media strategy in Latin America amplifying content intended to exacerbate social divisions, as well as Chinese state-owned media reinforcing a narrowly framed narrative that relations with China are primarily an economic opportunity for Latin America.

Reading:

The Economist: Populism and polarisation threaten Latin America. After dictatorships gave way to democracy trouble is brewing again, May 9, 2019.

Marchesi, Aldo, Latin America's Radical Left. Rebellion and Cold War in the Global 1960s, Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 1-22 (SIS)

UNDP, Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America, Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014, pp. 159-184, https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/human_development/info_rme-regionalde-desarrollo-humano2013-2014/

5. Economic Security in Latin America - March 14/2023

Poverty; Inequality; Unemployment; Child and Youth; Women; Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. A case study.

Reading:

ECLAC, Critical obstacles to inclusive social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2019, pp.9- 45 https://crds.cepal.org/3/sites/crds3/files/19-00578_cds.3_critical_obstacles_web.pdf

World Bank Group, Stagnant Poverty Reduction in Latin America, 2018.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/750811537474872191/pdf/130046-PUBLIC-Stagnant-Poverty-Reduction-LAC-2016-final-June2018.pdf>

6. March 21/2023 – reading week- no class

Reading will be assigned.

We will make up the missing class by participating in some of the relevant Latin America Security - related external events during the semester. You will be informed about these optional site-visits in our weekly sessions.

7. Personal Security in Latin America- March 28/2023

Personal insecurity, homicide, organized crime, fragile democracies.

Reading:

UNDP, Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America, Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014, pp. 15-72, https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/human_development/info_rme-regionalde-desarrollo-humano2013-2014/

Recommended:

Ortiz, Román D: Guerrillas, Terrorists or Criminals? The new face of antistate violence in Latin America in Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security, Routledge, New York, pp.211-221 (SIS)

Gallup, Security Issues Continue to Trouble Latin America by Julie Ray, July 26, 2016
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/193919/security-issues-continue-trouble-latin-america.aspx>

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New York Times, *'Goodbye, Weapons!' FARC Disarmament in Colombia Signals New Era*, June 27, 2017 by Nicholas Casey and Joe Parkin Daniels
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/27/world/americas/colombia-farc-rebels-disarmament.html>

8. Community Security - April 4/2023

Migration and Displacement; Cultural Diversity; Minorities and indigenous people. A case study.

Reading:

World Bank, *Indigenous Latin American the Twenty First Century, The First Decade*, 2015, pp. 13-55, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/145891467991974540/pdf/98544-REVISED-WP-P148348-Box394854B-PUBLIC-Indigenous-Latin-America.pdf>

Americas Quarterly, July 2019: Venezuela: Responses to the Venezuelan Migration Crisis, A Scorecard Corrales, Javier <https://www.americasquarterly.org/content/responses-venezuelan-migration-crisis-scorecard>

Recommended:

The Nation, September 2019: Zapatista Revolution is Not Over by Kurs Hackbarht and Colin Mooers, <https://www.thenation.com/article/zapatista-chiapas-caracoles/>

9. Environmental Security – April 11/2023

Mining; Deforestation; Land and soil; Water; Air pollution; Urban sustainability. A case study.

Reading:

O'Toole, Gavin, *Environmental Security and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean, A Blind spot in research* in Kacowicz, Arie M. and Mares, David R. (2016): *Routledge Handbook of Latin American Security*, Routledge, New York, pp. 277-287 (SIS)

Amazon Infrastructure: Brazil's dispossessed: Belo Monte dam ruinous for indigenous cultures by Z. Sullivan, December 2016, <https://news.mongabay.com/2016/12/brazils-dispossessed-belo-monte-dam-ruinous-for-indigenous-cultures/>

The Economist, February 2016, Mining in Latin America, From Conflict to co-operation, <https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2016/02/06/from-conflict-to-co-operation>

10. Hybrid governance and Security in Latin America - April 18/2023

Personal insecurity, homicide, organized crime, fragile democracies. A case study.

Reading:

Reading will be assigned.

11. Start of Student Group Presentations – April 25/2023

12. Continuation of the Student Group Presentations – May 2/2023

13. Final Discussion and Wrap up of the Course - May 9/2023

The syllabus and readings might be subject to change

Recommended reading:

- Brands, Hal: Latin America's Cold War, Harvard University Press, 2012.
- Březinová, K., Manke, A., Blecha, L: Conceptual Readings into the Cold War: Towards Transnational Approaches from the Perspective of Latin American Studies in Eastern and Western Europe in Revista Estudos Históricos, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, v. 30, n. 60 (2017) Perspectivas Globais e Transnacionais. ISSN: 2178-1494. <http://bibliotecadigital.fgv.br/ojs/index.php/reh/issue/view/3114>
- CEPAL, Social Panorama of Latin America, 2018. <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44396-social-panorama-latin-america-2018>
- Fischlow, A.: Starting over: Brazil since 1985, Brookings institution, 2013
- Goodwin, Paul. Global Studies: Latin America. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2008.
- Gwynne, R., Kay, C.: Latin America Transformed: Globalization and Modernity. Routledge; 2004.
- Keen, Benjamin and Haynes, Kieth. A History of Latin America. Wadsworth Publishing, 2008.
- Kuczynski, Pedro-Pablo and Williamson, John. After the Washington Consensus, Restarting growth and reform in Latin America, Institute for International Economics, 2003.

- Mainwaring, S., Valenzuela, A. (eds.) *Politics, Society, and Democracy: Latin America*. Westview Press, 1997.
- O'Neill, S. [Two Nations Indivisible: Mexico, the United States, and the Road Ahead](#), Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Rosati, Jerel and Scott, James. *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*. Thomson-Wadsworth, 2007
- Skidmore, Thomas and Smith, Peter. *Modern Latin America*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Smith, Peter H. *Talons of the Eagle: Latin America, the United States and the World*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Stirton Weaver, Frederick. *Latin America in the World Economy: Mercantile Colonialism to Global Capitalism*. USA, Westview Press, 2000.
- WOLA Research Report, November 2017: *Overlooking Justice, Human Rights Violations Committed by Mexican Soldiers against Civilians are Met with Impunity*
https://www.wola.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WOLA_MILITARY-CRIMES_REP_ENGLISH.pdf

Online resources:

- *Council on Foreign Relations, region Americas: independent studies, position papers.*—
www.cfr.org
- *United Nation's Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC in Spanish Cepal):*
<http://www.eclac.cl/> *statistics, studies, position papers.*
- *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars* - <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>
- *The Pew Global Attitudes Project:* <http://www.pewglobal.org/> *Opinion surveys, statistics,*
- *Center for International Policy* www.ciponline.org
- *Hispanic reading Room of the U.S. Library of Congress* <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/>
- *Internet Resources for Latin America* <http://library.nmsu.edu/subject/bord/laguia/>
- *Latin American Newsletters at* www.latinnews.com
- *Organization of American States* www.oas.org
- *The Economist libraries or* www.economist.com