

Categories	Seminar
Subject	Introduction to Latin American Politics
Day・Period	Wed.5Period
Credit(s)	2Credits
Instructor	YASUNOBU OKABE,ZAVARCE VELASQUEZ CARLOS DAVID
Practical business	
Course Type	Seminar
Session	1 lesson per week (1 hour 30 minutes)
Preferable Participants	学部3, 4年
Eligible Participants	Undergraduate and master's students
Course Numbering	
Language	English
Course of Media Class	
Main Subjects	○
Styles of class(Face-to-face classes/Online classes etc.)	In-person
How to contact and Google Classroom Code	E-mail: zavarce@tohoku.ac.jp / Google Classroom code: uizkx3p
Class Start Date, etc.	10/08/2025
Class subject	Introduction to Latin American Politics
Object and summary of class	<p>Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) comprises 33 countries, representing 7,18% of the world economy and 8,2% of the world population. It is also a source of natural resources such as petroleum, gas, gold, coal, copper, and aluminum. Its condition of being one of the world's regions without major international armed conflicts has made it attractive for developed countries looking to diversify their markets. For these and other reasons, the region has become strategically important for all international actors, including the U.S., the E.U., China, and Japan.</p> <p>This course is designed to introduce students to the political history and current dynamics unfolding across LAC, providing an understanding of the diverse elements that shape and influence the political systems of LAC countries and their development models. Throughout the course, students will study the different political approaches LAC governments implement to promote national and regional development and challenge or insert themselves into the international system.</p>
Goal of study	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To study, understand, and compare the different approaches of Latin American and Caribbean nations in relation to domestic and foreign policy. 2. To develop a critical appreciation of recent trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as their historical roots. 3. To analyze specific case studies for a significant comprehension of the object of study. 4. To strengthen academic presentation skills through the elaboration of individual and group presentations. <p>Students should come away from the course with an understanding of the diversity of political and economic systems in the Latin American and Caribbean region, an awareness of the pressing political and economic challenges of these countries to achieve sustainable development, and an appreciation of the questions and concepts that shape the work of professionals in politics and international relations.</p>
Contents and progress schedule of the class	<p>Session 1: Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Session 2: Contextualizing Latin America in global affairs</p> <p>Session 3: Historical background 19th and 20th centuries: From the Independence movements to the Washington Consensus</p> <p>Session 4: Current Political Institutions in LAC (21st Century)</p> <p>Session 5: Ideas and Interests of LAC countries</p> <p>Session 6: National organizations and policy making processes in LAC countries</p> <p>Session 7: Regional and international organizations in the LAC region</p> <p>Session 8: LAC – U.S. relations</p> <p>Session 9: LAC – Europe relations</p> <p>Session 10: LAC – Asia relations (Japan, China, and South Korea)</p> <p>Session 11: LAC – Other power blocs' relations (Africa, ASEAN, Middle East, Oceania)</p> <p>Session 12: Current Challenges</p> <p>Session 13: Students' Presentations 1</p> <p>Session 14: Students' Presentations 2</p> <p>Session 15: Students' Presentations 3</p>
Record and evaluation method	<p>The course has four parts: Reading academic materials, quizzes, presentations, and ongoing participation. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and are encouraged to bring questions, comments, and concerns for discussion. The class will overview and complement but not necessarily replicate or</p>

	<p>summarize assigned readings</p> <p>Weekly discussions based on readings (10%).</p> <p>Two surprise quizzes (10% for each one / total of 20%).</p> <p>Two short presentations (10% for each one / total of 20%).</p> <p>Final presentations (30%).</p> <p>Attendance (20%).</p>
Textbook and references	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garcia-Rodriguez, Antonia and Greenberg, Daniel (Edit). (2020). Latin America in the World an Introduction. Routledge. (Chapter 1: Overview: Latin America and Its Subregions). - Munck, Gerardo and Luna, Juan. (2022). Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis. Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 1). - Vanden, Harry and Prevost, Harry. (2020). Politics of Latin America: The Power Game. Oxford University Press. (Chapter 3). - Kline, Harvey and Wade, Christine. (2023). Latin American Politics and Development. Routledge. (Chapters 3 and 4). - Onuki, Janina; Mouron, Fernando; and Urdinez, Francisco (2016). "Latin American Perceptions of Regional Identity and Leadership in Comparative Perspective". Contexto Internacional. vol. 38, no 1, 433-465. - Guedes-Neto, João. (2020). "Mapping the center of government in Latin America and the Caribbean: a typology". Revista de Administração Pública 55 (5). Brazil. - Van Klaveren, Alberto. (2017). "Regionalism in Latin America: Navigating the Fog". World Trade Institute. - Segovia, Daniela. (2013). "Latin America and the Caribbean: Between the OAS and CELAC." European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies N.95. 97-107. - Dominguez, Jorge and Fernandez de Castro, Rafael. (2016). Contemporary U.S.-Latin American Relations: Cooperation or Conflict in the 21st Century?. Routledge. New York. (Chapter 1: The Changes in the International System since 2000).. - Gardini, Gian Luca (edit). (2021). External Powers in Latin America: Geopolitics between Neo-extractivism and South-South Cooperation. Routledge. (Chapter 2: The European Union in Latin America: A "neighbor" of values). - Stallings Barbara. China as a new partner for Latin America: Toward a diversification of international relations. In Fortin, Carlos; Heine, Jorge; and Ominami, Carlos. (edit). (2023). Latin America Foreign Policies in the New World Order: The Active Non-Alignment Option. Anthem Press. - Inter-American Development Bank. (2013). "Japan and Latin America and the Caribbean: Building a Sustainable Transpacific Relationship". Inter-American Development Bank. - Gardini, Gian Luca (edit). (2021). External Powers in Latin America: Geopolitics between Neo-extractivism and South-South Cooperation. Routledge. (Chapters 14 and 16). - Stuenkel, Oliver. Latin America in the Post-Western World. In Fortin, Carlos; Heine, Jorge; and Ominami, Carlos. (edit). (2023). Latin America Foreign Policies in the New World Order: The Active Non-Alignment Option. Anthem Press.
self study	<p>Average: 4-5 hours</p> <p>The course has four parts: Reading academic materials, quizzes, presentations, and ongoing participation. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and are encouraged to bring questions, comments, and concerns for discussion.</p>
In addition	
Last Update	

One-credit courses require 45 hours of study. In lecture and exercise-based classes, one credit consists of 15-30 hours of class time and 30-15 hours of preparation and review outside of class. In laboratory, practical skill classes, one credit consists of 30-45 hours of class time and 15-0 hours of preparation and review outside of class.