

Varieties of Capitalism in Latin America

In this course we analyze contemporary Latin America from an integrative social science perspective (including economic, social and political aspects). Although one could have conceived Latin America as an ensemble with more or less the same problems, challenges and destiny during the period of industrialization by import substitution (1930-1980), nowadays it is not possible to find a unique mode of development in the continent. While some perspectives posit a single model of capitalism, the structuralist schools propose the existence of a variety of capitalisms in both developed countries and Latin America.

We will first discuss the different ways in which the development (or lack of) has been analyzed by different schools of thought. We will then analyze the different types of capitalism that exist in this continent. Not all of Latin American countries produce and export the same products, some of them produce commodities, others produce manufactured products and still others services. We will thus focus on the different productive structures and in the manner in which this determines and affects the integration of different countries to the world economy.

We will analyze the different types of capitalism that exist in this continent. We will focus on the different productive structures, the manner of integration to the world economy, the intervention of the State, as well as the strength of the unions and of civil society of some of the countries of the continent. We will also analyze the different types of welfare State that exist in Latin America and the manner in which they reacted and battled the coronavirus pandemic.

Finally, analyze the economic situation of the different countries as a result of the health crisis.

Workload

Class attendance and a required reading per session of around 40 pages. The articles or chapters will be available electronically.

Course Validation

Summaries of the assigned readings: 70 %. Participation in class 30%.

Sessions

Session 1	Stages of Latin American Economy. Required reading: Salama, Pierre 2016, pp. 11-50.
Session 2	Why Latin America fell behind in its societal development? Required reading: Acemogly/Robinson 2012, pp-7-43. <i>Additional literature: Engerman/Sokoloff 1997, pp. 261-304.</i>
Session 3	The historical-structural perspective of the dependency theory Compulsory reading: Cardose/Faletto 1979, pp. 1-73. <i>Additional literature: Bresser, Pereira 2017.</i>
Session 4	Latin American capitalism according to the institutionalist perspective Required reading: Ben Ross Schneider 2013, pp. 3-40. <i>Additional literature: Hall/Soskice 2001, pp. 1-68.</i>
Session 5	Latin American capitalisms in an actionalist-structuralist perspective Required reading: Bizberg 2019, chapter 1 and 2. <i>Additional literature: Bensusán, 2016.</i>
Session 6	Varieties of capitalisms: Asia and Latin America Required reading: Palma J.G. and Pincus, J. (2022). <i>Additional literature: Bizberg, Ilan, 2018.</i>
Session 7	Social Protection Systems Required reading: Bizberg 2019, chapter 8. <i>Additional literature: Garay 2016, chapter 3.</i>
Session 8	Civil Society and Social Movements Required reading: Etchemendy, 2020. <i>Additional literature: Inclan, 2018.</i>

Scheme for reading and summarizing course readings

Correct citation of the paper (Surname, name, year: title, etc.)	
Author(s) affiliation and context of paper production	
Main topic and arguments	
Theory or concept the paper is based on	
Methods applied	
Own statement, merits and critique	

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