This course will cover significant new research on Latin America politics and political economy, mostly books, articles, and papers from the last five or so years, some of it as yet unpublished. As such, the course is not a ‘field seminar’ designed to give an overview and history of the field, but rather concentrates on just the latest breaking trends. The weekly topics cover a mix of new themes that have developed in the last decade like the left, violence and politics, and state formation, as well as long standing areas of research where significant new theories have emerged on clientelism, business politics, state capitalism, inequality, parties, and elections.

Course requirements (with grading weights) include: participation in seminar discussions including leading seminar discussions several times (30%); three 4-page (double spaced) reviews of the weekly reading (30%); and a final presentation (5%) and paper (35%). The weekly reviews should be posted to Stellar by 9am on Wednesday so that everyone can consult them before class. A two page paper proposal, with a one page bibliography, is due by late March, and the final paper of around 20 pages is due at the beginning of exam week. Papers should focus on a week or two of the readings and place those readings in a broader survey of the literature both other contemporary studies and the trajectory of the research line over the past decade. The paper format should follow roughly article-length reviews in journals like *World Politics* or *Comparative Politics*.

Students will need to buy or borrow the required books marked with *. Articles, manuscripts, papers, and some scanned book chapters will be on Stellar.
Week 1 (2/3). **Introduction and Organization**

Week 2 (2/10). **State Formation and Path Dependence**


Further reading


Week 3 (2/17). **The Rise and Decline of the Left in Latin America**


Further reading


24 February. No class

Week 4 (3/2). **Inequality and Social Welfare I**


Further reading


Week 5 (3/9). **Inequality and Social Welfare II**


Week 6 (3/16). **Drug Traficking, Crime, and Politics**


Further reading

*Studies in Comparative International Development*, September 2013 special issue.

Week 7 (3/30). **Business Politics**


Further reading


Week 8 (4/6). **Patronage, Clientelism, and Vote Buying**


**Further reading**


**Week 9 (4/13). Parties and Elections**


**Further reading**


**Week 10 (4/20). Authoritarianism and Democratization**

*Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way. 2010. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*. Chapters 1, 2, and 4.

Hidalgo article on authoritarian legacies

**Further readings**


**Week 11 (4/27). New Forms of State Intervention**


**Further reading**


**Week 12 (5/4). Student presentations**

**Week 13 (5/11) Student presentations**