

(PALAS 400) Latin America in the Global Economy

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Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies

Universidad de Belgrano

Course Syllabus 2025

Course Information

T Th 16-17:30 PM

Instruction in English

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course will study the development patterns of Latin America since colonial times to present days. Dependency from external factors has underpinned Latin America's economic development. This course will focus on the specific issues that determined the economic development of the region as a whole, as well as that of individual countries. The first part of this course will focus on economic history. In the second part, students are expected to choose one country from a list of Latin American countries and conduct research. A case study of the chosen country's patterns of development and how economic history forged present-day conditions /issues /disparities/insertion in the world will be presented, both orally - approximately 25 minutes followed by a 10-15 discussion - as well as written, both with a substantial weight in the total final grade of the course, as seen below. The third part of the course will focus on the future prospects of Latin American development, future dilemmas and strategies.

Course Requirements

Class attendance is required of all students at UB. A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with the attendance policy. Class participation is very important; there will be several class discussions, which will rely heavily on student participation. Students are expected to conduct research for the final paper and consult the digital library (EBSCO) for that purpose. UB holds to the view that plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and is a serious breach of acceptable conduct. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester. There will be no make ups for classes falling on public holidays.

*For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the student handbook in orientation kit packet.

Grading Policy

Participation	10 %
Paper presentation (oral & written)	30 %
Midterm	25 %
Final Exam	35 %

Passing the final exam is mandatory in order to promote the course.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Argüero, Course Reader.

Academic Calendar

Week 1 (March 6)

Introduction. Presentation of the course The importance of integration in the current world scenario. Peace through integration. The three waves of regionalism.

Week 2 (March 10)

Latin America in the world economy: growth, development and trade. Investments and SDG.

Week 3 (March 17)

The economics of knowledge. Innovation and intangible capital. Creative destruction. Technological progress in economic growth. Knowledge as a non rival and partially excludable good. Monopoly and competition. Social and private rates of return to investments in education and R&D. Mapping R&D activity. Technological capabilities of Latin American countries. Successes and failures of the agroexporting model and the import substitution model in Latin America

Week 4 (March 24)

From cultural to social and economic integration.

Week 5 (March 31)

Mercosur. Mercosur - EU agreement.

Week 6 (April 7)

The emergence of China and its impact on Latin American Economies

Week 7(April 14)

Access to finance. Fiscal result.
Democracy, civil liberties and political systems in Latin America

Week 8 (April 21)

Tuesday: Review for the midterm exam (online-synchronous)

Thursday Midterm exam

Week 9 (April 28)

Tuesday: Results of the exam (online-synchronous)

Thursday: Main areas of inward FDI. Region's potentials. Outward FDI. Exports of finished products from South America. Largest companies by country.

Week 10 (May 5)

FDI and its effects in developing economies. Flows of FDI to South America. Most important Latin American companies.

Inquiries about group work.

Week 11 (May 12)

Migrations: the three waves of migration in Latin America. Current trends and future perspectives. Remittances and their impact in LatAm economies.

Week 12 (May 19)

Oral presentations (25' each)

Week 13 (May 26)

Oral presentations (25' each)

Energy: Reserves, tendencies and countries' strategies in the 21st Century. Integration in the energy sector.

Environment and sustainability in Latin America: a historical perspective.

Week 14 (June 2)

Open discussion: Latin America in the 21st Century's economy: globalization, trade and cooperation.

Review for the final exam.

Week 15 (June 9)

Tuesday: Final Exam

Thursday: Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Argüero, L. (2016), "The ever 'under construction' Mercosur", UB.
- de Castro, Hogenboom, Baud, Environmental governance in Latin America, Ch. 1 and 2.
- CRS - Congressional Research Services (2022), " Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Compilation of Selected Indices".

- Durand, J. (2009), "Processes of migration in Latin America and the Caribbean", Human Development Research Paper 09/24, UNDP.
- ECLAC (2024), "Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America", United Nations Publications, Santiago de Chile.
- ECLAC (2024), "Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy", United Nations Publications, Santiago de Chile.
- ECLAC (2016), "Innovation, Science and Technology in the digital economy", ch. 1 to 4
- ECLAC (2015), "Latin America and China: Towards a new era in economic cooperation", United Nations Publications, Santiago de Chile.
- Florida, R. (2008), *Who's your city?*. Basic Books, Nueva York.
- Foray, D. (2006), *The Economics of Knowledge*. MIT Press, London.
- Kuwayama, M. (2009), "Quality of Latin American industrialization and integration into the global economy", United Nations Publication, Chile.
- Laurssen, F. (ed.) (2010), *Comparative Regional Integration*, Ashgate.
- Malamud, A. (2013), "Overlapping Regionalism, No Integration: Conceptual Issues and the Latin American Experiences", EUI Working Paper RSCAS 2013/20
- Malamud, A. (2022), "Assessing the political dialogue and cooperation pillar of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement: towards a bi-regional strategic partnership?". European Parliament Think Tank.
- UNESCO (2022), Science Report. Latin America.
- WTO (2011), World Trade Report 2011.

Nº	Topic	Readings / Special assignments
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductory Meeting</p> <p>Introduction. Presentation of the course The importance of integration in the current world scenario. Peace through integration. The three waves of regionalism.</p>	<p>Acquire and skim over textbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WTO (2011) - Malamud (2013)
2	<p>Latin America in the world economy: growth, development and trade. The economics of knowledge. Innovation and intangible capital. Creative destruction. Technological progress in economic growth. Knowledge as a non rival and partially excludable good. Monopoly and competition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECLAC (2022)
3	<p>Social and private rates of return to investments in education and R&D. Mapping R&D activity. Technological capabilities of Latin American countries.</p> <p>Successes and failures of the agroexporting model and the import substitution model in Latin America</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eclac S&T (2016) • Kuwayama (2009) • UNESCO (2022)
4-5	<p>Cooperation. Mercosur. History and present. Mercosur-UE... agreement?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurssen (2010) Ch. 1,2 • Argüero (2016) • Malamud (2022)

6	The emergence of China and its impact on Latin American Economies	• ECLAC (2015)
7	Access to finance. Fiscal result. Democracy, civil liberties and political systems in Latin America.	• CRS (2022) • ECLAC (2022)
8	Mid term examination.	
9	Mapping Latin America's FDI.	• ECLAC (2022 - FDI) Consultations for group work.
10	FDI 2. Latin American companies.	Brief group analysis of one Lat Am firm.
11	Migration. Energy policy and integration in Latin America. Review for final exam.	• Durand, J. (2009)
12	Groups oral presentations	
13	Groups oral presentations (II) Energy: Reserves, tendencies and countries' strategies. Environment and sustainability in Latin America.	• De Castro et al (2016) Present written papers
14	Open discussion: Globalization, trade and cooperation. Review for the final exam.	
15	Final examination and final grades	