

Latin American Politics (PSC 3510)

Paper 2: Making Democracy Work in Latin America

Due date: electronically and in hard copy by the date noted in the online schedule. If you have a conflict that will prevent you from turning the paper in by its due date, you should let me know at least 72 hours in advance to determine if an extension is appropriate. Late work will be accepted; however, I will apply a five percent deduction per day, starting the same day the work was due. This penalty will double in cases where a student does not promptly notify me that they have missed a due date, explain why work is tardy, and tell me when the work will arrive. If you have had late work previously, the full penalty will apply.

To be considered as having been submitted on time, you must:

- (1) Turn a copy of the paper in at the start of class. It needs to be stapled or paperclipped.
- (2) And email the assignment as a PDF or MS Word or RTF attached document (if you send the document as an e-mail message, in Pages format, or as a link to a cloud server document or drive—such as Google Docs/Drive—the paper will not be accepted until it has been submitted in one of the acceptable formats).
- (3) Send it to: msetzler@highpoint.edu
- (4) Make sure the message's subject line is: PSC 3710 paper 1

Please respond to the prompt below with an essay that is at least 1,750 words in length (aim for at 5-6 full pages; please don't submit more than eight), excluding the required bibliography and statement about AI use.

Your essay should be double-spaced, have numbered pages, and use standard page margins and font sizes. Your title section must list the paper's word-count. Per the syllabus, if you have used AI for proofreading, you need to declare this in the title section of the paper. You need to explain exactly how AI was used.

Before beginning to write the essay, *you need to review carefully syllabus sections on academic integrity and the use of AI assistance as well as handouts on the course website addressing the use of AI, paper grading criteria, and citation expectations.* The paper's citations and bibliography should carefully follow one of three formats most used in the social sciences: University of Chicago, the APA, or the APSA. For your convenience, my website provides a handout with many formatting examples using the APSA style. You need to use page-specific citations so that your instructor can quickly verify your interpretation of cited material.

The primary purpose of this assignment is to assess *your* understanding of and ability to apply the *assigned* materials, including the non-textbook readings. If you do not engage and analyze the relevant readings, it will not be clear that you have closely read them, and you will earn a low paper grade. As such, ***please do not use any outside readings or other sources*** unless you specifically have cleared doing so (i.e., you may not use AI, the internet, or unassigned authors to help you write the paper). This is not an independent research assignment. If you substitute outside readings for the assigned readings, you will earn a failing grade for the content and analysis sections of the paper as it will be unclear that you have reviewed the assigned readings and class materials.

Let me stress again: before you begin to write this paper, read the syllabus sections on academic integrity and the policies related to using AI assistance; AI assistance may only be used for certain types of proofreading, and you must include a statement in the title area of your paper all purposes for which AI was used and to attest that you have only used AI in the permitted ways. Without exception, instances of plagiarism (cases where a student attempts to gain academic credit by submitting an essay in which a significant portion of the writing has been copied, paraphrased without citation, or patch-written from any other author, the internet, another student, or AI) will be reported and punished according to university policy. You may not submit an essay for which you have received or will receive credit in another course.

Paper 2 Essay Topic:

Assume that you have been hired as a political consultant by a major international organization that is offering advice to various Latin American governments in the hopes that this guidance will improve the quality of democracy in the region. The organization is under the impression that you are very familiar with the political institutions, democracy, and political challenges of *either* Mexico or Brazil. The organization also has been told that you are prepared to draw examples from both of these countries' experiences as well as other countries that you have read about in this course unit to provide and analyze a set of lessons about the political choices that make democracy in Latin America thrive or weaken over time.

Based on a careful assessment of political choices, institutions, and leaders in Brazil/Mexico, as well as examples from other countries in the region, offer a set of recommendations that political leaders in other Latin American countries could implement to improve the quality of democracy in their countries. While your writing can largely focus on one country, your analysis should be comparative in scope and consider how democracy is faring in Latin America as a whole and especially in the country (i.e., Brazil or Mexico) on which you chose *not* to focus.