

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY PERU, SUMMER 2006
PO 465 THE POLITICS OF PERU
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE SAN CRISTÓBAL DE HUAMANGA
JULY 21 – AUGUST 9, 2006
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SYLLABUS

This course is designed to provide perspectives on political dynamics in Peru and will be taught in Spanish. It will deal with the patterns of Peruvian politics through history, with a particular focus on the role of Shining Path in the tumultuous period since 1980. In analyzing the last twenty-six years in Peru, we are particularly concerned with why the Shining Path guerrilla movement was able to grow and expand in circumstances most students of revolution find quite inhospitable – open and inclusive democracy. We are also interested in why the movement failed after being on the brink of success in the early 1990s, as well as the multiple political and social consequences of its “people’s war.”

Classes will be held M-F from 10 to 1, with a break at about the mid-point each day. They will include my lectures on the topic of the day and your presentations on the readings, in Spanish. We also expect to have several visits by local scholars and citizens to talk with us about their experiences in Ayacucho during the violent years of the 1980s and 1990s and their interpretations of the consequences for the region. There will be no final exam, but you will be expected to prepare and turn in several one to two page summaries and analyses of the readings. In addition, at the beginning of some classes there will be a short quiz on the readings for that day. Your attendance and the quality of your class participation will also be components of your final grade.

Readings:

Peter Flindell Klarén, *Nación y sociedad en la historia del Perú* (Lima: Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, 2005)

David Scott Palmer, *Shining Path of Peru*, Second Edition (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1994)

You may purchase the Palmer book at amazon.com (\$35 new, \$15 and up used), and should plan to have it in time to bring with you to Peru. The Klarén book is available at the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos in Lima (Horacio Urteaga 694) for S/. 60 or \$17.50, and you should buy it before you travel to Ayacucho, as it is not available there.

Grading:

Attendance: 15%
Participation: 20%
Short Papers on the Readings: 40%
Quizzes on the Readings: 25%

Classes:

- F 21 July Introduction: The Course and Its Objectives
Klarén (K), Preface and Geography, Chapter 1
Palmer (P), Chapter 1
- M 24 July Pre-Conquest Peru
K, Pre-Inca Cultures & the Inca Empire, Ch. 1
- TU 25 July The Conquest & the Colonial Experience
K, Ch. 2, 3, 4 (to The Fall of Royal Government)
Quiz
- W 26 July Independence & Its Challenges
K, Ch. 4, 5, 6
- TH 27 July The War of the Pacific & The “Aristocratic Republic”
K, Ch. 7, 8
Quiz
- M 31 July Populism, Failed Democracy, & Military Rule
K, Ch. 9, 10, 11
- TU 1 Aug The Return to Democracy & the Rise of Shining Path
K, Ch 12
P, Ch. 2, 3
Quiz

- W 2 Aug Shining Path in Action: Four Case Studies (Chuschi, Andahuaylas, the Upper Huallaga Valley, and Até Vitarte)
P, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7
- TH 3 Aug Explaining Shining Path: Personalities, Organization, Operations, and Relationship with the Peruvian Left
P, Ch. 8, 9, 10, 11
- F 4 Aug Explaining Shining Path: Revolutionary Theory and the Peruvian Experience
P, Ch. 12, 13
K, Ch. 12
Quiz
- M 7 Aug The Fujimori Years and the Fall of Shining Path
K, Ch. 13
Quiz
- TU 8 Aug Why Did Shining Path Fail?
P, “Revolución en el nombre de Mao” (hand out)
- W 9 Aug Conclusion: What Have We Learned?