

OIECOY32 - Latin America in transition: contemporary development challenges

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Department: International affairs
Semester: 2

Course level: L3 Undergraduate
Domain: International Development, Social Science
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 18
Number of course sessions: 10 + Exam
ECTS: 6

Course description and objectives

How can the Latin American (LAC) region move towards a sustainable development model? How can a multidimensional approach lead to more prosperity for the citizens of the region? What developing traps are holding back the regions development? What is the role of national and subnational institutions?

The answers to these questions are closely linked and are part of the system response the LAC region needs to move towards a more sustainable development model. This course focuses on the challenges and opportunities of multidimensional development and how active policies to place citizen's well-being in the centre can help close the developing traps of the region.

The sessions delve into specific topics in the field of sustainable development, including a macroeconomic analysis of the region; the multidimensionality of vulnerability; the role of reinforced institutions; the impact of climate change in the region; the challenges and opportunities of place-based solutions; and the crucial role of the labour market.

The course draws on academic literature, but also on policy reports and specific case studies from developing economies. The intention is to combine rigorous empirical analysis with policy-oriented training, so students are not only able to evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence on regional development topics, but also use this evidence to navigate existing institutional constraints and promote concrete policies. More than just a review of the existing literature and evidence, students will be asked to apply the findings in a regional/place-based context through individual and group assignments.

Prerequisites

Previous knowledge of Latin American history and recent socio-political events in the region. Ability to read and comprehend complex texts in Spanish and English.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, the students will have achieved:

- (1) A solid overview of the theoretical literature and policy approaches on i) the major drivers behind sustainable development, ii) labour markets and poverty, iii) the well-being and development in transition approach, and iv) the political outcomes of bad (and good) development strategies.

- (2) Exposure to case studies from developing economies on policies related to the topics highlighted above.
- (3) The ability to critically evaluate qualitative and quantitative evidence on sustainable development topics from both academic and policy sources.
- (4) The ability to analyse existing public policies in the field of sustainable development and to produce their own policy recommendations.

Assignments and grading

Individual assignment:

- (1) Essay (1 000 words) on a question chosen by the student from a list of three on a contemporary development challenge in a Latin American country (50%).

Group assignment (2-3 students):

- (2) Joint “book review” of a report by an International Organisation on a Latin American country of your choosing from a list of publications provided (2 000 words if group of two, 3 000 words if group of three) (50%).

The numerical grade distribution will dictate the final grade. The passing grade for this course is 10/20.

Class participation: Active class participation – this is what makes classes lively and instructive. Come on time and prepared. Class participation is based on quality of comments, not quantity.

Exam policy: In the exam, students will not be allowed to bring any document (except if allowed by the lecturer). Unexcused absences from exams or failure to submit cases will result in zero grades in the calculation of numerical averages. Exams are collected at the end of examination periods.

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	Course overview and conceptual introduction: <i>Latin America in transition</i> and Topic 1: Cloth for Wine? The productive diversification challenge
2	Climate vulnerability and extractive industries in Latin America
3	Spatial inequity: urban-rural cleavages in Latin America
4	Beyond GDP per capita: Post-pandemic inequalities in Latin America
5	Why transitions fail? Public institutions in Latin America
6	Going blue, going green: options for productive diversification in Latin America
7	No place left behind? What role for local assets and public services for regional development
8	Where to next for <i>Estados de Bienestar</i> ? Consolidating Latin American Welfare States
9	<i>Informalidad y cuentapropismo</i> : Latin American realities and labour market policy
10	Strengthening institutions for a better good governance

Bibliography

1. AFD (2022), Islands and Coastal Cities Faced with Climate Change: Increasing the Resilience of Island Communities.
2. Alejos, L. (2021), What are the fiscal risks from extreme weather events and how can we deal with them?, Inter-American Development Bank.
3. Arora, A. and H. Schroeder (2002), "How to avoid unjust energy transitions: insights from the Ruhr region", Energy, Sustainability and Society, Vol. 12
4. Arent, D. et al. (2017), The Political Economy of Clean Energy Transitions, Oxford University Press
5. Bleeker, A. et al. (2021), Advancing gender equality in environmental migration and disaster displacement in the Caribbean, Studies and Perspectives series, No. 98, ECLAC
6. Cabutto, C., S. Nieto Parra and J. Vázquez Zamora (2022), Hacia un contrato social renovado en tiempos de Covid-19 para América Latina: ¿por qué? ¿qué incluir?, ¿cómo llevarlo a cabo?, Blog, Foco Económico
7. ECLAC et al. (2020), The climate emergency in Latin America and the Caribbean. The path ahead – resignation or action?
8. Guzmán, J. (2020), De mínimos a máximos: cómo los estacionamientos en Ciudad de México están cambiando, Transecto.
9. Hickey, A. and V. Wellenstein (2021), 10 key points on climate change impacts, opportunities and priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank Blogs.
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11. Maldonado Valera, C. et al. (2022), Social cohesion and inclusive social development in Latin America: A proposal for an era of uncertainties, Project Documents, LC/TS.2021/133/Rev.1, ECLAC.
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13. OECD et al. (2022), Latin American Economic Outlook 2022: Towards a Green and Just Transition.
14. OECD (2020), COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional socio-economic implications and policy priorities.

15. OECD (2020), Informality and employment protection during and beyond COVID-19: good practices and the imperative of universal safety nets. Background note, OECD-LAC Virtual Social Inclusion Ministerial Summit.
16. OECD (2020), Impacto social del COVID-19 en Ecuador: desafíos y respuestas, Making Development Happen, Volume 4.
17. OECD/ILO (2019), Tackling vulnerability in the Informal Economy, Development Centre Studies.

Lectures' biography

Olivia Cuq is a Policy Analyst within the OECD Development Centre (DEV). In DEV, she coordinates and collaborates with various reports and projects dedicated to the green transition in LAC. Before that, Olivia worked at the Argentinean delegation to the OECD, and various subnational governments in Argentina. Olivia holds a B.A. in Political Sciences from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), a specialization in Public Opinion from FLACSO, a master's in public policy from Universidad Austral and Sciences Po and a specialization in Latin American studies from UBA and Euro Sapienza. Olivia speaks English, French, and Spanish.

Lucas Leblanc is a Policy Analyst within the OECD Local Employment and Economic Development Programme (LEED). In LEED, Lucas works on employment and skills policies with a focus on the local level. Lucas has also had experience within the European Parliament and think tanks in Washington DC. Lucas holds a B.A. in International Relations from the College of William & Mary in the US, during which he studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a Master of European Affairs from Sciences Po Paris. Lucas speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish, and is learning Portuguese.

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: **Yes**

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.