



Passage through the Panama Canal & Costa Rica

February 10 – 18, 2019

Suggested Readings and Travel Tips from Faculty Leader Al Montero

Central American Politics and Development Bibliography

Almeida, Paul. 2014. *Mobilizing Democracy: Globalization and Citizen Protest*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Buckley, Kevin. 1992. *Panama*. New York: Touchtone.

Bulmer-Thomas, Victor. 1987. *The Political Economy of Central America Since 1920*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Burrell, Jennifer L. and Ellen Moodie, eds. 2013. *Central America in the New Millennium: Living Transition and Reimagining Democracy*. New York: Berghahn Books.

Close, David. 2016. *Nicaragua: Navigating the Politics of Democracy*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Conniff, Michael. 1992. *Panama and the United States: Forced Alliance*. University of Georgia Press.

Greene, Julie. 2009. *The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal*. New York: Penguin Press.

Lehoucq, Fabrice. 2012. *The Politics of Modern Central America: Civil War, Democratization, and Underdevelopment*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Martínez, Óscar. 2016. *A History of Violence: Living and Dying in Central America*. London: Verso.

McCulloch, David. 2004. *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal, 1870-1914*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Pérez, Orlando J. 2011. *Political Culture in Panama: Democracy after Invasion*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Palmer, Steven and Iván Molina, eds. 2004. *The Costa Rica Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press.

Sánchez-Ancochea, Diego and Juliana Martínez Franzoni. 2013. *Good Jobs and Social Services: How Costa Rica Achieved the Elusive Double Incorporation*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Stanley, William. 2013. *Enabling Peace in Guatemala: The Story of MINUGUA*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Viterna, Jocelyn. 2013. *Women in War: The Micro-Processes of Mobilization in El Salvador*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Wade, Christine J. 2016. *Captured Peace: Elites and Peacebuilding in El Salvador*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Research in International Studies.

Wilson, Bruce. 1998. *Costa Rica: Politics, Economics, and Democracy*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Tips for Pre-/Post-Program Travel

Panama City: The main must-see is the *Casco Viejo* or colonial part of the city. A visit to the Panama Canal Museum is a must-see there. Panama City is a very commercialized financial center, so there is more shopping than anything else, but for the more culturally inclined, it might be best to leave the city and go to the nearby first colonial site in Panama, *Panama Viejo*. It is nearby the main city and there should be a range of organized excursions to choose from. If you wish to venture further but still within day-trip range, there is *El Valle de Anton*, which has historic significance and some eco-tourism possibilities. *Bocas del Toro* was also suggested to me. The Gamboa Nature Preserve is nearby, right along the Panama Canal, though we might see that during the main trip. There is an island in the canal, *Barro Colorado*, that has some fabulous hiking and nature site-seeing. Again, that might make it into the main trip itinerary with the help of naturalist guides.

Costa Rica: I have not been in CR and am not familiar with San José, but everyone tells me to not spend much time there. It is a crime-ridden and highly congested city that belies the calm and security of the rest of the country. However, if there is time, a visit and tour of the century-old opera house, which is a small-scale replica of the one in Paris, is worth it. If you can get to San Pedro (about 15 miles outside of San José), then a tour of the Universidad de Costa Rica is worth it. The Archeology Museum of Costa Rica is worth a look. For the economists (ha ha!), a tour of the gold museum in the Central Bank is possible. I am also told that Sabana has a great art museum.