COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course on Latin American politics will introduce students to the key features of governance in the region. We will address the main currents in political and economic development that have swept the region in the last century and continue to define its contemporary politics. As such, the course will explore political trends in populism, revolutionary movements, military regimes, and democratization. We will also analyze various approaches Latin American countries have undertaken to promote economic development, from import substitution industrialization to neoliberal economic reform. The last section of the course focuses on contemporary challenges for the “quality of democracy,” including political institutions, citizenship rights, social inclusion, corruption, and authoritarian reversals.

This course is organized along thematic lines to emphasize some of the shared political experiences of countries in the region. Illustrative country cases are used throughout the course to provide context and specifics for our ideas.

MAJOR & CERTIFICATES:

This course contributes to a number of curricular program areas in the College of Letters and Science. They include:

- Major/minor in Political Science;
- Major in Latin American, Caribbean & U.S. Latin@ Studies (LACUSL)
- Major in International Studies
- Major in Global Studies
- Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

LETTERS & SCIENCE RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:

This course fulfills the College of Letters and Science’s research requirement. Students in Political Science and LACUSL can take this course to fulfill their research experience requirement.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to explain competing explanations for the causes of Latin American political and economic development.

2. Students will demonstrate depth of knowledge in the region, and will be able to explain the similarities and differences in the politics of countries within Latin America.

3. Students will not only express their knowledge on the causes and consequences of democratization in the region, but also assess the quality of democracy in the region and for a Latin American country.

4. Students will be able to analyze a country’s contemporary challenges with democracy by engaging in independent research and written analysis of key findings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES (Please read carefully):

Students are expected to attend class regularly and keep up with the weekly readings. Grades will be assessed according to students’ performance on in-class participation, quizzes, examinations, and written assignments. A breakdown for course assignments follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Extra Credit</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Extra Credit</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map Quiz: The map quiz will test your knowledge of the region’s political geography.

Exams will consist of short IDs, short-answer questions, and essays. Each exam is non-cumulative and will cover the material up to the exam date. The purpose of the exam is to test students’ underlying understanding of the readings and lecture material. This means exams will focus on core concepts and arguments, not factoids and dates.

Students who for any reason miss an in-class exam without prior approval by the instructor will not receive credit for the exam. Make-ups are permitted only in rare circumstances, for instances students with severe illness or family death; in all cases documentation is required.

Research Paper Proposal: The research paper proposal is designed to assist students in writing the research paper and provide early feedback in the writing process. This assignment should include a short synopsis of your topic and basic argument, brief outline of the paper, and preliminary references. The proposal will be due in class (hard copy) as well as uploaded to the Canvas drop box. Detailed instructions on the assignment will be distributed and discussed in class. Late submissions automatically drop 1/3 a full letter-grade for every day it is past due.

Revised: 9/1/2019
Research Paper: The research paper (10-12 pages) will explore contemporary politics in Latin America for a country of your choice. The paper will be due in class (hard copy) and uploaded to the Canvas drop box. Detailed instructions on the assignment will be distributed and discussed in class. Late papers automatically drop 1/3 a full letter-grade for every day it is past due.

In-Class Participation: Students will have opportunities throughout the semester for structured as well as less structured oral and written in-class participation. Each week 3-5 students will serve as lead discussants in class. Discussants will have read the material carefully and come prepared to explain readings (e.g. identify the central thesis, explain the methods), contribute to in-class discussions (e.g. raise questions, spur debate), and serve as leaders in group-activities.

All students are expected to come to class having completed the material; discussion leaders may help start the conversation. But all students are expected to actively engage in the class discussion.

The instructor reserves the right to hold pop-quizzes. Occasional pop-quizzes will be graded on a three-point scale (not-submitted/submitted but incomplete/submitted and complete response).

Planned Extra Credit: Add a photo of yourself to your Canvas profile OR submit a digital photo of yourself via email. Due by Thursday, Sept. 12th at 11:59pm.

Optional Extra Credit: UWM hosts a number of speakers and events on campus related to Latin America. Opportunities to earn extra credit for attending a campus event will be announced throughout the semester.

Final grades will comprise of students’ cumulative average on all assignments. Students with the following numerical average will earn:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 to 100</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be no grading curve for this course; if all students earn an “A” that is what all will receive.

Students are responsible for anything that occurs in class, including for instance announcements that are made, assignments that are handed out, and any schedule changes. You should check
that the e-mail provided to the university is correct and functioning, so that you receive course emails.

Last, a note on readings. This course is designed to be challenging and (I hope) rewarding. As such, you will be reading from various sources, including articles, book chapters, and a textbook. Given the varied nature of the readings, expect to devote time to careful reading of each piece. Plan to complete your readings prior to class so that you can follow the lecture, ask questions, and fully participate.

Expectations of your time: Be involved! I assume you are taking this course because you are interested in this topic and not simply because it meets a graduation requirement. You will have ample opportunity in class to share your interests and ideas. This course is designed to be challenging and rewarding. I expect that you will keep up with readings prior to classes each week. The amount of reading varies with each topic and article; some readings require in-depth study, while others can be read more quickly. A general rule of thumb is spending 3 hours outside of class per credit. So, you should plan to spend about 9 hours per week taking notes on readings and doing assignments. Attendance and active engagement in class are required and count toward your final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergrad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time in the classroom (face-to-face instruction)</td>
<td>37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time spent on reading course material</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time taking preparing for quiz and exams</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time for completing assignments</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

Attendance: Regular attendance is required. Please notify the instructor if you will have difficulty making it to class.

Class Etiquette: Please respect your instructor and fellow classmates by arriving to class on time. Please make an effort to use the facilities before class so that you do not have to take bathroom breaks in the middle of class.

In-Class Electronic Usage: Please respect the instructor and your fellow colleagues by turning off all ringing or beeping devices during class. Laptops are permitted for note taking purposes only as Internet web surfing is a distraction to those around you. Usage of cell-phones during class is strictly prohibited. This means no texting during class.

Canvas: We will use Canvas for supplemental readings, grade management, and occasional announcements. Please log-in and check the course site on a regular basis.

E-mail: The best way to contact me is via e-mail. Please note however that e-mail is best suited for short inquiries and administrative matters. Questions about course content should be made in person, before or after class, or during office hours.
Disability Accommodations: At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Student Accessibility Center (SAC). To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations are provided, students should contact the SAC Office. For more information, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

Religious Beliefs Accommodation: On occasion, students may find it necessary to miss class in order to observe a religious holiday. In order to ensure reasonable accommodation, students should inform the instructor of the conflict prior to the holiday. Any conflicts with assignments, tests, or other coursework must be addressed before the due date. For more information, see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Academic Misconduct: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and disciplinary sanctions by the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For more information, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

Incompletes: For more information on UWM’s policy on incompletes, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Military Duty: Students called up for active military duty should contact the instructor for accommodation. For more information on the university’s policies, see: http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm

Discriminatory Conduct: For information on definitions of discrimination, harassment, abuse of power, and the reporting requirements of discriminatory conduct, see: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

IMPORTANT DATES:

Map-Quiz: Thursday, Sept. 12th  
Extra Credit: Thursday, Sept. 12th  
Mid-Term Exam #1: Thursday, Oct. 17th  
Paper Proposal: Thursday, Oct. 24th  
Research Paper: Tuesday, Nov. 26th  
Mid-Term Exam #2: Thursday, December 19th from 10:00am to 12:00pm  
(During Scheduled Final Exam Period)

READING:

Please make sure you have the following required texts:


The above required books are available for purchase via UWM’s ecampus book seller. They are also available at the UWM Golda Meir Library’s Reserve Desk (2-hour reserve). You may also find some copies at the library for regular use and check-out, consult the library for loan periods.

3. All other course readings assigned on the syllabus (e.g. articles, book chapters, etc.) will be available for downloading and printing via the course Canvas website.

**WEEKLY READINGS:**

**Introduction: Culture, Geography, & Politics**  
*Week 1: (9/3 & 9/5)*

Hillman, Chapter 1 Introduction.  
Hillman, Chapter 2: Latin America: A Geographic Preface.  
Winn, Chapter 1: A View from the South, pp. 1-32

*Recommended:*  
Hillman, Chapter 4: Latin American Politics. {Skim for Overview of Course Themes}

*Note: For this week, scans of these chapters will be available on our Canvas website.*

**Historical Context: From Colonialism to 1930**  
*Week 2 (9/10 & 9/12)*

Hillman, Chapter 3: The Historical Context, pp. 41-65.  
Winn, Chapter 2: Legacies of Empire, pp. 39-85.  
Winn, Chapter 3: The Perils of Progress, pp. 85-122.

*** Map Quiz, Thursday, September 12th ***

*** Extra Credit due September 12th at 11:59pm ***

**Populism & Industrialization**  
*Week 3 (9/17 & 9/19)*

Hillman, Chapter 6: Economies of Latin America.  
Military Regimes & Bureaucratic Authoritarianism  Week 4 (9/24 & 9/26)

Hillman, Chapter 5: The Military.
Winn, Chapter 5: Capital Sins, pp. 165-213.

Human Rights (‘Dirty Wars’)  Week 5 (10/1 & 10/3)


Recommended:

Revolutionary Movements  Week 6 & 7 (10/8, 10/10, 10/15)

Winn, Chapter 13: Making Revolution. pp. 525-578
Dix, Robert. 1984 “Why Revolutions Succeed or Fail” in *Polity*, Vol. 16 No. 3 (Spring), pp. 423-446.

Cuba:

Nicaragua & Central America:

***Brief in-class exam review on Tuesday, Oct. 15th ***
***First Mid-Term Exam Thursday, Oct. 17th ***
Democratization

Week 8 (10/22-10/24)

Schmitter, Phillipe, and Terry Lynn Karl. 19991. What democracy is…and is not. Journal of Democracy, 2(3) (Summer): 75-88.

** Research Paper Proposal due Thursday, Oct. 24th **

Democratic Consolidation

Week 9 (10/29-10/31)


Recommended:

Neoliberal Economic Market Reform

Week 10 (11/5-11/7)


Case Study - Argentina:

Recommended:

Poverty

Week 11 (11/12-11/14)


Cast Study – Chile:

Case Study – Brazil:

Race and Ethnicity Week 12 (11/19 & 11/21)

Hillman, Chapter 9: Patterns of ‘Race,’ Ethnicity, Class and Nationalism. {Skim}

Recommended:
Winn, Chapter 7: Children of the Sun, pp. 250-284.
Winn, Chapter 8: A question of color, pp. 291-322.

Women’s Political Participation Week 13 (11/26)

Hillman, Chapter 10: Women, Work, and Politics.

Recommended:
Winn, Chapter 9: In Women’s Hands, pp. 329-364.

*** Research Paper Due, Tuesday, November 26th ***

** Thanksgiving November 28th **

Authoritarian Tendencies Week 14 (12/3 & 12/5)


**Democratic Survival?**


TBD

***Brief in class review on Thursday, December 12th*** ***
***Second Mid-Term Exam*** held Thursday, December 19th ***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Books:**


**Periodicals & News on Latin America**
NACLA Report on the Americas

**Academic Journals on Latin American Studies & Comparative Politics:**
Latin American Research Review
Latin American Politics & Society
Journal of Politics in Latin America

**Academic Journals on Comparative Politics**
Comparative Politics
Comparative Political Studies
Journal of Democracy
General Country Reference Guides:
CIA-World Factbook (2007)
Economist Intelligence Unit – (Various Years, Various Countries)

Online Resources & Databases:
Latin American Network Information Center – LANIC (University of Texas at Austin)
http://lanic.utexas.edu/

Political Database of the Americas – Georgetown University. http://pdba.georgetown.edu/

Films on Latin American Politics
City of God (2002, Brazil)
Eva Peron (1996, Argentina)
Mexico: From Boom to Bust (USA)
Missing (1982, USA)
The Official Story (1985, Argentina)
Our Brand is Crisis (2005, USA)
Don’t Tell Anyone (1998, Peru)
Seven Days in September (Brazil)
No (2012, Chile/France/USA)
Roma (2018, Mexico)