Introduction:
This course focuses on democracy and democratic institutions in Latin America. The course examines the failures of democratic governments, the causes of military interventions, and the progress of and prospects for successful consolidation of democracy throughout the region. In the process, we will consider what democracy is, the consequences of different institutions for stability and accountability, the cause and effect of economic crisis and reform, and the relationship between economic reforms and authoritarian and democratic governments.

Catalog Description:
A two-part examination of government, politics, political change and political groups in Latin America. Part one examines the development of government, politics, political change and political groups. Part two presents national case studies. 3 units.

Goals:
Students will:
-define democracy while recognizing the difficulties of creating such a definition
-consider possible prerequisites for democracy, particularly in "developing" countries
-understand the historical context of current Latin American politics
-evaluate the consequences of different institutions for stability and accountability
-evaluate competing reasons for authoritarian rule and the breakdown of democracy
-explain and evaluate competing reasons for democratic consolidation and stability
-recognize constraints on Latin American political and economic development
-evaluate the efficacy of authoritarian and democratic governments in implementing reform
-understand the context of economic and political reform in the region
-apply their knowledge in assessing the prospects for democratic regimes in Latin America
-appreciate the diversity of Latin America and the contribution of various groups to Latin American government and politics
-learn how to find current information on events in Latin America

Texts:


Other required readings will be posted on LOCUS. Internet access is required, and is available at on-campus labs. A password will be provided the first day of class.
Course Requirements:
Online Access: You will need internet access for this class. If you do not have access at home, familiarize yourself as soon as possible with the labs on campus.

Quizzes/Assignments: There will be approximately four in-class quizzes, including a map quiz. These will primarily consist of short-answer questions. More information on and the specific dates of the quizzes will be given in class. Furthermore, there will be a few short take-home and in-class assignments.

Article Search and Presentation: Each student will find one recent news article on an assigned Latin American country and present the information in the article to the class. Students will sign up for dates in class.

Final Exam: There will be one in-class final exam which will consist of short-answer and essay questions. The exam will be cumulative. A guide will be provided.

Country Analyses: Each student will each write two five-page analyses on two different Latin American countries. Students will discuss their papers in class. The assignment will be explained more thoroughly in a separate handout.

Grades:
Quizzes/Assignments - 160 points
Article Search and Presentation - 20 points
Final - 100 points
Country Analyses - 2 x 100 points each = 200 points total
Analyses Presentation - 2 x 10 points each = 20 points total

Grades: A = 94%+; A- = 90%; B+ = 88%; B = 84%; B- 80%; C+ = 78%, and so on.

Important notes:
Academic Honesty: One of the most disagreeable and yet preventable problems that can arise when students work on research papers is plagiarism. Be careful! Plagiarism is the "act of stealing and using as one's own the ideas or the expression of the ideas of another," according to The Scribner-Bantam English Dictionary. The ideas and words of others as well as facts which are not common knowledge must be properly attributed to the source. The Chicago style must be used, with footnotes. Plagiarism could result in your expulsion from the college; for this class, you will receive a "0" on any work that is plagiarized. The assignment handout will cover the basics of proper citation for your paper, but you are responsible for knowing the rules. See me in advance if you have any questions regarding the use of materials in order to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism. Keep all notes and any drafts of your work until you receive your final grade in the course. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to Student Affairs.

Incompletes: Only under the most unusual circumstances will incompletes be given in this class. Under no circumstances will incompletes be granted for students who are not earning at least a "C-" in the class at the time the incomplete request is made. If you suspect you are having problems or are falling behind in class, see me as soon as possible so that you can avoid unpleasant consequences at the end of the semester!

Also: I welcome emailed student questions. I regularly check my email M-F. However, I do not accept emailed assignments unless specifically noted.
CLASS SCHEDULE:

The following lists course topics, reading assignments, exam dates, and deadlines. Please read materials listed before or during the week that they are listed.

Week 1: January 23, 25
**Introduction to the class and Background on Latin America (Colonization +)**
Readings:
- LOCUS: Latin American History Handout: Colonization

Week 2: January 30, February 1
**Independent Latin America: Politics, Society, and Economy**
Readings:
- LOCUS: Latin American History Handout: Independence

Week 3: February 6, 8
**Democracy, Repression in Chile**
(How democratic was Chile before the military coup? Why did the coup of 1973 occur? What was the resulting dictatorship?)
Readings:
- COUNTRYWATCH: Chile (History, Political Conditions, Government Functions, Government Structure)
- LOCUS (Maps): Chile maps
Week 4: February 13, 15

Chile, continued
(How did the transition to democratization occur?)
Readings:
LOCUS (Links): Lehrer Newshour segment on 1988 Chilean plebiscite: "Taking it to the Polls"
LOCUS (Readings): "Untying the Knot," *Economist* (October 23, 2004)

Week 5: February 20, 22

Chile, continued
What are current issues in Chilean politics and government?
Readings:
LOCUS (Links): "Chile Elects First Female President" (NPR)
LOCUS (Links): Politics in Chile: The Newshour with Jim Lehrer on Human Rights

Week 6: February 27, March 1

The Context of Military Coups
Readings:
LOCUS (Readings): Wendy Hunter, "Continuity or Change? Civil-Military Relations in Democratic Argentina, Chile, and Peru," *Political Science Quarterly* 112, no. 3, (Fall 1997) 453-.

Week 7: March 6, 8

The Context of Military Coups, continued
Readings:

In Class: Movie, "La Historia Oficial" (The Official Story)

Spring Break: March 13-17
Week 8: March 20, 22

**The Breakdown of Democracy and Military Rule in Brazil**
(What kind of democracy did Brazil have before the coup? What led to the coup of 1964? What was the nature of Brazil's military government?)

Readings:
- COUNTRYWATCH: Brazil (History, Political Conditions, Government Functions, Government Structure)
- LOCUS (Handouts): Brazil History Handout
- LOCUS (Maps): Brazil Maps

Week 9: March 27, 29

**Brazil, continued**
(How did the military leave power? What kind of democracy does Brazil have now?)

Readings:
- LOCUS (Readings): "Brazil’s Slow Road to Democratization"

Week 10: April 3, 5

**Brazil, continued**

Readings:

Week 11: April 10, 12

**Authoritarian and Democratic Latin America: Mexico**

**Authoritarian Mexico, Democratic Mexico?**

Readings:
- COUNTRYWATCH: Mexico (History, Political Conditions, Government Functions, Government Structure)
- LOCUS (Maps): Mexico Maps

Week 12: April 17, 19

**Mexico, continued**

Readings:
- LOCUS (Links): "Mexico Looks to Next Presidential Election" (npr report)
Week 13: April 24, 26

**Mexico, continued**

Readings:
- Hellman, *Mexican Lives*, chapters 5-9, Postscript and Afterword (pp. 113-244)

Week 14: May 1, 3

**Democracy in Venezuela: harbinger of the future, or vestige of the past?**

Readings:

Week 15: May 8, 10

**Summing Up**

Readings:

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 17, 3-5.**