Course Objectives

This course has two main objectives. The first is to introduce students to several themes that are most relevant to Latin American politics today, including democratization and democratic performance, the politics of economic development and reform, the formation and politicization of ethnic identities, and several more. The second objective is to teach students how to apply general theoretical ideas about these themes to the contemporary Latin American experience. To do this well, the students will need 1) to study the political and historical experiences of specific Latin American countries, and 2) to learn how to compare these different cases with the aim of evaluating theoretical arguments and understanding why political outcomes differ from one country to the next. In the latter half of the course, we will focus on Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela, but we will also compare these cases to other Latin American countries.

Assignments, Attendance, and Grading

Students are expected to complete all of the assigned reading on time, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions. If you miss a class, you should secure class notes from another student and come to the next class prepared. If you miss more than 4 classes without proper University documentation, your course grade will fall by one half of a letter grade per additional absence.

There will be two paper assignments, submitted through Blackboard’s Turnitin system. I will circulate more detailed instructions with the first paper assignment. Late papers will be lowered one full letter grade per day.

There will be a mid-term exam in class on March 9.

There will be in-class quizzes throughout the semester. If you miss a quiz due to class absence, it is your responsibility to know, and to arrange to make up the quiz promptly.

The final exam is scheduled for May 5.
Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Class participation  = 10%
- Papers (2 @ 10% each)  = 20%
- Midterm exam  = 20%
- Combined in-class quiz grades  = 20%
- Final exam  = 30%

TOTAL  = 100%

Books and Readings
The following books are available for purchase at the SU Bookstore (in the Schine Student Center):

- Isabel Allende, *House of the Spirits*
- Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women, Two Protests, and the Quest for Recognition*
- Guillermo O’Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*

Copies of these books are also available in print form at the reserve desk at Bird Library. All other readings on the syllabus can be found in electronic form on the Blackboard website for the course. Look under the “Documents” link, where the articles are listed by author’s last name and publication year. Where I have assigned a book or a large section of a book (several chapters), I am not allowed to post the material directly, and you must either purchase the book or use the paper copy at the reserve desk.

Electronic Devices
Please do not use any electronic devices, including laptop computers, during class time.
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
Syracuse University’s Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. Under the policy, students found in violation are subject to grade sanctions determined by the course instructor and non-grade sanctions determined by the School or College where the course is offered as described in the Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric. SU students are required to read an online summary of the University’s academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information about the policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu.

The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

Disability-Related Accommodations
Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/

Religious Observances
SU’s religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors no later than the end of the second week of classes. Student deadlines are posted in My Slice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

*** All students should feel free to discuss any of the issues ***
mentioned on this page with me at any time.
# Daily Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1       | Jan 17    | Introductory Lecture.  
*[bookstore or library reserve]* |
| 2       | Jan 19    | Conflict in Peru.  
IN CLASS FILM: *State of Fear* |
| 3       | Jan 24    | Traditional and Modern Societies  
| 4       | Jan 26    | Political Conflict and Mass Politics  
| 5       | Jan 31    | Political Conflict: Breakdown of Democracy  
QUIZ #1 |
| 6       | Feb 2     | Political Conflict: Civil Wars and US Interventions  
| 7       | Feb 7     | The Causes of Democratization I  
| 8       | Feb 9     | The Causes of Democratization II  
*[bookstore or library reserve]*  
QUIZ #2 |
| 9       | Feb 14    | Institutions and Democratic Stability  
PAPER #1 ASSIGNED |
10 Feb 16  Democratic Performance

11 Feb 21  Democracy and Clientelism
QUIZ #3

12 Feb 23  The Rise of the Left in Latin America

13 Feb 28  Political Economy I: From ISI to Neoliberalism
PAPER #1 DUE

14 Mar 2  Political Economy II: Why Reform is Politically Difficult
Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives*, pp.15-59. [bookstore or library reserve]
QUIZ #4

15 Mar 7  Political Economy III: The Human Costs of Economic Reform
Read: Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives*, pp.60-100 [bookstore or library reserve]

16 Mar 9  Midterm Exam
In Class

****  SPRING BREAK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAPER #2 ASSIGNED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QUIZ #5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QUIZ #6</td>
<td>PAPER #2 DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QUIZ #7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
25 Apr 18  **Venezuela: Two Documentaries on Chavez**  
IN CLASS FILM: We will view portions of two documentaries on contemporary Venezuela: *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (2002), and *The Hugo Chavez Show* (2008).

26 Apr 20  **Venezuela: Authoritarianism After Chávez**  

27 Apr 25  **Venezuela’s Current Crisis: Whom to Believe?**  
Read: Viscidi, Lisa (2016). “Venezuela on the Brink: How the State Wrecked the Oil Sector and How to Save It,” *Foreign Affairs*  
QUIZ #8

28 Apr 27  **The United States in Latin America**  

29 May 2  **Review for Final Exam**

FINAL  May 5 (Friday) 5:15pm, Hall of Languages 202