COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores issues of democracy and development in Latin America. The course will focus on the nature and limitations of democracy in the region, as well as long-standing issues that affect democratic political development: market-oriented economic reforms, social inequality, contemporary political institutions, civil-military relations, human rights abuses, drug trafficking, and revolutionary and counter-revolutionary violence. These issues have both local and global roots and consequences. We will survey political history, institutions and contemporary policy and process of countries in the region. This course will introduce you to the various theoretical approaches to understanding why both economic and political development have been uneven in Latin America, provide you with opportunities to think and write critically, and to give you the opportunity to utilize your research and analytical skills to examine governance challenges in greater depth through independent research.

This course is designated a “Global Scholar” course and may count toward the achievement of a Global Scholar Designation on your transcript. Global Scholar courses build on the knowledge, skills and perspectives that you gained in your USP Global Citizenship courses. Global Citizenship and Global Scholar courses are designed to provide students with the knowledge of nations, cultures, or societies beyond the U.S.; the recognition of how interaction, interdependence, and inequity among diverse geographical, social, political, or economic systems have shaped historical and contemporary global challenges and opportunities; and the skills needed to engage with the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex, interdependent, and changing world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Analyze how different states within Latin America respond to economic, political, and social challenges
- Appreciate how diverse human ideas and traditions have shaped political culture and organization in the countries of study
- Articulate how domestic level politics affects, and is affected by, regional and global events and ideas
• Compare and contrast the political systems of the countries explored in the course, paying particular attention to historical, political, economic, geographical, and moral aspects of governance in each country
• Demonstrate your critical thinking, writing, speaking and analytical skills in global and comparative context
• Identify forms and of sources inequities inherent in social and political power structures in the Latin American context
• Recognize similarities and differences in the historical evolution of Latin American countries

ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING
There are multiple assignments and activities associated with this course as well as a midterm and final exam. Some of these activities will be completed in class and others will be completed outside of class. Major assignment and exam dates are indicated in the syllabus.

COURSE POLICIES
Text: The following required texts (available at the bookstore):


Overview of the book: Politics of Latin America: The Power Game explores both the evolution and the current state of the political scene in Latin America. This text demonstrates a nuanced sensitivity to the use and abuse of power and the importance of social conditions, gender, race, globalization, and political economy throughout the region. It is uniquely divided into two parts: one that treats big-picture, thematic questions, and one that focuses on particular countries through case studies of ten representative nations: Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, Nicaragua, and Bolivia.

Supplementary readings and activities are provided on D2L depending on the assignment.

Academic journals dealing specifically with Latin American issues:
  Bulletin of Latin American Research
  Journal of Latin American Studies
  Journal of Politics in Latin America
  Latin American Politics and Society
  Latin American Research Review
  NACLA Report on the Americas

Websites with information on various aspects of Latin American politics, economics, and culture as well as links to major news outlets are also available on D2L.
Study Expectations: It is usually expected that students will spend about 2 hours of study time outside of class for each hour we spend together inside of class – that’s 3 hours a week of class time, and about 6 hours a week on preparing for class. Some students will need more study time, and some less.

Grading: Final Grades are calculated using UWO’s 93/90/87 grading scale as follows:

I. Current Event Assignments (25%): these ask you to evaluate current events and connect them to course content and case studies (one will be on predicting the outcome of Brazil’s elections).

II. Latin American Geography Exam (5%): a simple geography quiz of country names and borders (all those covered in your text), given during the second week.

III. Midterm exam (15%): focused on the first half of the course.

IV. Film analysis (10%): one short 3-5 page essay analyzing a film (viewed outside of class) in the context of themes, theories and cases presented in the course.

V. Comparative Research Paper (30%): an analytical piece of scholarship analyzing a topic of your choice in the field of Latin American Politics.

VI. Final Exam (15%): focused on the second half of the course.

You may check your assignment grades on D2L at any time. Please let me know right away if there is an issue with a posted grade. If you have grading questions, please come see me. You may challenge a grade—this request must be typed, based on clear reasoning related to the material, and submitted within a week of receiving your graded work.

Tips for doing well in this class:

- **Do your reading before** the class meeting for which it is assigned and be prepared to discuss the material and ask questions.

- **Come to class** – really! We will do a lot of work together in-class. Students with poor attendance tend to do poorly. I do keep track of your attendance; but it is not part of your grade.

- **Bring your readings and notes to class** with you so that you can participate fully in these in-class activities and assignments. You may bring a tablet or laptop to access your readings and course materials during group work.

- **Take notes on your reading**, keep a list of key terms and definitions (particularly from the textbook), and write down questions you may have while reading. I highly recommend taking handwritten notes.

- **Observe common sense classroom etiquette**. Treat others with respect, and be respectful of, and open to, differing opinions and attitudes.

- **Come see me in office hours** and/or communicate with me about issues, difficulties, absences etc. as they come up. If you are struggling or are not doing as well as you would like to be doing, come talk to me; we can discuss strategies to improve and what further assistance you might need.
Plagiarism and Academic Honesty: “Academic Honesty is fundamental to the University, and academic misconduct is taken very seriously. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors” (UWS, 14.01, emphasis added).

- Plagiarism is using someone else’s ideas, words, theories, evidence, findings, argument, etc. and passing them off as your own by not properly attributing or acknowledging the original source of those ideas.
- Students may inadvertently plagiarize when they fail to provide page numbers for quotations in a paper, or when they paraphrase or summarize the work of others without acknowledging the source in the text of their paper.
- Plagiarism in its many forms is wrong, unethical and dishonest. At minimum plagiarism in this course will result in a failing grade on the specific assignment and may result in other disciplinary action.
- If you are unsure whether or not what you have written constitutes plagiarism (in this class, or in another class you are taking), or you do not understand how to cite the work of others, don’t hesitate to ask me!

Excused absences and late work: Excused absences require documented evidence of medical necessity or a college-sanctioned event. All assignments are due on the dates specified; late assignments will be marked down a half letter grade for each 24 hour period they are late.

COURSE SCHEDULE BY WEEK*
*Changes, reminders and revisions to our weekly plans are announced on D2L – set up notifications for D2L news so you do not miss anything!

Week 0: Introduction to Latin American Politics
- September 5, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 1 (Introduction)
- September 7, 2018 (Fri) Text Ch. 2 (Latin American History)

Week 1: Historical Patterns of Power
- September 10, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 3 (Democracy and Dictators)
- September 12, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 7 (Political Economy)
- September 14, 2018 (Fri) Discussion: Current debates and events in Political Economy

Week 2: Mexico - “So far from God, so close to the US"
- September 17, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 11 (U.S.-Latin American Relations)
- September 19, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 12 (Mexico, Nora Hamilton)
- September 21, 2018 (Fri) Discussion: Current debates and events
Week 3: Institutions and elections
- September 24, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 9 (Politics, Power, Institutions, Actors)
- September 26, 2018 (Wed) D2L Reading “Social Movements, Party Organization, and Populism: Insights from the Bolivian MAS”
- September 28, 2018 (Fri) Discussion: Current debates and events AND Geography Exam

Week 4: Brazil
- October 1, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 4 (The Other Americans - People of Color Under Colonialism) AND Documentary (link on D2L)
- October 3, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 14. (Brazil, Wilber Albert Chaffee)
- October 5, 2018 (Fri) Brazil election predictions

Week 5: Transitions to and from Democracy
- October 8, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 8 (Democracy and Authoritarianism: Latin American Political Culture)
- October 10, 2018 (Wed) D2L Reading “The Co-optation of LGBT Movements in Mexico and Nicaragua: Modernizing Clientelism?”
- October 12, 2018 (Fri) Discussion: Current debates and events AND Workshop: exploratory annotated bibliography

Week 6: Argentina
- October 15, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 6 (Religion in Latin America)
- October 17, 2018 (Wed) Text, Ch. 13 (Argentina, Aldo C. Vacs)
- October 19, 2018 (Fri) D2L Reading: “Populism in Latin America: Old and new populisms in Argentina and Brazil” AND Discussion: Current debates and events

Week 7: Chile
- October 22, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 15 (Chile, Eduardo Silva)
- October 24, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 5 (Society, Family, and Gender)
- October 26, 2018 (Fri) D2L Reading “Explaining Domestic Violence Policy Outcomes in Chile and Argentina” AND Discussion: Current debates and events

Week 8: Resistance and Revolution
- October 29, 2018 (Mon) Midterm
- October 31, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 10 (Struggling for Change)
- November 2, 2018 (Fri) D2L Reading “Resistance to Privatization: Why Protest Movements Succeed and Fail in Latin America”

Week 9: Cuba
- November 5, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 19 (Cuba, Gary Prevost) AND Documentary (link on D2L)
- November 7, 2018 (Wed) Discussion: Current debates and events
- November 9, 2018 (Fri) Workshop – Paper outline

**Week 10: Guatemala**
- November 12, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 20 (Guatemala, Susanne Jonas) AND Documentary (link on D2L)
- November 16, 2018 (Fri) *Discussion: Current debates and events*

**Week 11: Thanksgiving Week**
November 19, 2018 (Mon – Sun)
- *Film Analysis (due next Monday before class)/Research Paper Draft(ing)*

**Week 12: Nicaragua (Crisis)**
- November 26, 2018 (Mon) Film Analysis debrief AND Workshop – Research Paper Draft | peer review
- November 28, 2018 (Wed) Text Ch. 21 (Nicaragua, Gary Prevost and Harry Vanden)
- November 30, 2018 (Fri) *Discussion: Current debates and events*

**Week 13: Venezuela (Failing)**
- December 3, 2018 (Mon) Text Ch. 17 (Venezuela, Daniel Hellinger) AND Documentary (link on D2L)
- December 5, 2018 (Wed) [Council on Foreign Relations – Venezuela Reporting](#)
- December 7, 2018 (Fri) *Discussion: Current debates and events*

**Week 14: Finals Week**
- December 10, 2018 (Mon) Discussion and review
- December 12, 2018 (Wed) *Final exam*
- December 14, 2018 (Fri) *Final Research Paper Due*
Film Recommendations

- Cartel Land (Mexico – documentary)
- City of God (Brazil)
- Clear and Present Danger (Colombia)
- Colosio (Mexico)
- Death and Maiden (Chile)
- Elite Squad (Brazil)
- Four Days in September (Brazil)
- Gimme the Power (Mexico – documentary)
- I Will Be Murdered (Guatemala – documentary)
- In the Line of Fire (Nicaragua)
- Linha de Passe (Brazil)
- Lula: Son of Brazil (Brazil)
- Machuca (Chile)
- Maria Full of Grace (Colombia)
- Miss Bala (Mexico)
- Missing (Chile)
- Neighbouring Sounds (Brazil)
- No (Chile)
- No Volverán: The Venezuelan Revolution Now (Venezuela – documentary)
- Nueve Reinas (Argentina)
- Rio 2096: A Story of Love and Fury (Brazil)
- Salvador (El Salvador)
- South of the Border (Venezuela – documentary)
- The Battle of Chile (Chile)
- The Long Walk Home (Guatemala – documentary)
- The Motorcycle Diaries (Ché Guevara)
- The Official Story (Argentina)
- The Perfect Dictatorship (Mexico)
- The Return of Lencho (Guatemala)
- The Revolution Will Not Be Televised (Venezuela – documentary)
- The Secret in Their Eyes (Argentina)
- Thirteen Days (US-Cuba)
- Todos Santos: The Survivors (Guatemala – documentary)
- When the Mountains Tremble (Guatemala – documentary)