Since the end of the Cold War, Latin America has undergone periods of both economic downturn and sustained growth. The region has seen more stable democratic regimes, however, than at any time in its history. The course begins with a brief overview of twentieth-century Latin American history. We will investigate the sources of democratic stability, whether a supposed “Pink Tide” has occurred, and remaining problems for democratic governance. We will also examine the relationship between contemporary politics and economic development and crisis, and investigate whether national economies have moved beyond chronic boom-and-bust economic cycles. Class will be a structured mix of lectures and in-class participatory exercises.

The course is highly participatory. Tuesday courses will provide lectures that outline topics and theories for the week. Thursday courses will mostly provide activities, simulations, and small group interactions that further explore the weekly theme and topic. Absences will be excused only for medical emergencies and family or personal tragedies (see attendance policy below).

**Course Materials:**

All course materials will be posted onto Blackboard, or available through the University of Rochester Library website. Starred readings are available through the library website. Books assigned for the course should be purchased.

I ask students to buy one book: Gordon Harvey’s *Writing With Sources: A Guide for Students* (Cambridge, MA: Hackett Publishing Co., 2008 – older versions okay). Used copies are acceptable. The book provides guidance and general outlines for better writing and citations. Points will be deducted for essays that do not conform to guidelines set in *Writing with Sources.*
Course Requirements:

The class is designed to expose students to major works in political science on Latin American politics, from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The course covers the return to democracy in the late twentieth century, and contemporary issues in politics and governance in countries of the region. Students are given the opportunity in writing assignments to explore issues or particular countries of their choice with more depth.

For PSC/IR 261:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all assignments, and participate in class discussions and activities. The assignments comprise in-class participation (25%), a thirty minute in-class midterm at the beginning of class on October 15th (10%), a five-page paper due at the beginning of class on November 12th (20%), a five-page paper due by email on December 15th by 3:30 PM (20%), and a brief (sixty minutes) final exam on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 4:00 PM (20%). Please consult Writing with Sources for proper indentation, formatting, and citation procedures. Students will also prepare and present a reading for fellow students (5%). A sign-up sheet for the reading presentations will circulate in the first weeks of the course.

For PSC/IR 261W:

Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all assignments, and participate in class discussions and activities. The assignments comprise in-class participation (25%), a thirty minute in-class midterm at the beginning of class on October 15th (10%), a five-page paper due at the beginning of class on November 12th (10%), a twelve to fifteen page independent research paper due in paper copy on December 15th by 3:30 PM (30%), and a brief (sixty minutes) final exam on Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 4:00 PM (10%). **Important:** Students must meet with the instructor in office hours or by prior arrangement before October 31st to discuss their research project. Please consult Writing with Sources for proper indentation, formatting, and citation procedures.

Students will also prepare and present a reading for fellow students (5%). A sign-up sheet for the reading presentations will circulate in the first weeks of the course.

*The papers and the oral presentation are an opportunity for students to do outside research on a country or region that interests them.* Independent research should include at least three peer-reviewed academic sources, and at least five sources in total.

**Written work standards:**

All written work should be in Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, with 1" margins on all sides of the paper. In-text citations are mandatory, in either Chicago or MLA style. Five-page papers should be between 4.5 and 5.5 pages; points will be deducted for papers that are too
short or too long. The bibliography at the end does not contribute to the page count. Place your name and paper title in a Header at the top of the page only.

Late work:

Assignments will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade (from A to A-, B+ to B, etc.) for each 24 hours or fraction thereof that elapses between the due date and the submission of the assignment.

Grading scale

A (93.0% < x)
A- (90.0% < x ≤ 93.0%)
B+ (87.0% < x ≤ 90.0%)
B (84.0% < x ≤ 87.0%)
B- (80.0% < x ≤ 84.0%)
C+ (77.0% < x ≤ 80.0%)
C (74.0% < x ≤ 77.0%)
C- (70.0% < x ≤ 74.0%)
Non-passing grades (x ≤ 70.0%)

In-class participation:

We will conduct class discussions in seminar format, with extra activities and breakout sessions for enrichment. Two or three students will present a reading each week, in order to provide background for that week’s topic of discussion. Each student should be prepared to answer questions about the reading and to provide a short (two or three sentence) summary of the authors’ arguments. In presenting the reading, show enthusiasm and energy; inform and teach your peers instead of simply reading an assignment.

Re-grades:

Students should feel free to contact me about re-grades due to arithmetic errors. If students feel that grades were incorrectly given, they can re-submit the assignment to me with a memorandum of at least 250 words explaining why they thought they deserve a different grade. Requests for re-grades should be made within 72 hours after the results have been passed back. I reserve the right on re-grades to lower, raise, or maintain any grade.

Studying and work outside of class:

You are encouraged to discuss class readings and your research project with classmates for the examinations, and send me any questions. You may even trade drafts and outlines with your peers. All final work, however, should be your own. You will be held responsible for errors in citation and attribution. The College standards on Academic Honesty will be strictly enforced.

Accommodations:
If you are entitled to accommodations, please coordinate these with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning early in the semester. Their information and policies can be found at http://www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/undergraduate/index.html. I cannot make these arrangements for you; you must contact CETL (formerly LAS) yourself.

There will be no make-up work for students who fail to turn in final projects on time or miss classes. Be sure to contact your peers for class notes. I am happy to discuss the material with you, but I do not offer individual recap sessions.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. As freshmen, students read and sign an academic honesty policy statement to indicate that they understand the general principles upon which our work is based. The College Board on Academic Honesty website gives further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect:

You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. In order to make appropriate help available for your essays, I encourage you to consult with me and with the College Writing Center. The term research paper will require citations and “Works Cited” following the MLA format.

Be sure to cite all your sources. When in doubt, add a footnote or endnote. In-text citations are acceptable. All reports and independent papers should contain a bibliography at the end. Wikipedia is not considered a reliable source of information for this class, and should never be cited as an authority.

Any instance of plagiarism will result in zero credit for the assignment and referral of the student(s) involved to the College Board on Academic Honesty.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

I am happy to write letters of recommendation for graduate school and for enrichment programs. I need **at least** two weeks’ advance notice to prepare a letter, and I may ask for a meeting or conversation to further discuss your interests and achievements. Requests made within fourteen days of the deadline will be denied.

**Course Outline**

Students should come to class prepared to discuss all readings assigned for that week and for prior weeks.
I reserve the right to drop or replace readings to better direct learning and sharpen the focus of the course. All readings are required.

1. September 1, 2015
Introduction: Why Study Latin American Politics?


I. History and Background

2. September 3
NO CLASS – AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

3. September 8
Twentieth Century History


4. September 10
Patterns of Uneven State Development


5. September 15
Twentieth Century Politics


6. September 17
Twentieth Century Politics: Coups and Authoritarian Regimes


7. September 22  
Coups and Civil Wars


8. September 24  
Review Day

II. The Consolidation of Democracy After 1982

9. September 29  
The return to democracy I – democratic transitions


10. October 1  
The return to democracy II - regimes


11. October 6 – NO CLASS: FALL BREAK

12. October 8  
The return to democracy III - discussion

13. October 13
Issues in democratic quality: Civil Society


14. October 15
Issues in democratic quality: Civil Society

*In-class midterm examination (30 min)*


15. October 20
Issues in democratic quality: Interest Representation


16. October 22
Issues in democratic quality: Interest Representation


17. October 27
Issues in democratic governance: Violence


19. October 29
Issues in democratic governance: Violence


20. November 3
Issues in democratic governance: Participation


November 5
Review of democratic governance

III. Contemporary Issues

November 10
New leftist governments


November 12
First five-page paper due

Varieties of new leftist governments


November 17

Gangs and violence


November 19

Gangs and violence


November 24 – NO CLASS

November 26 – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Day)

December 1

Migration within and out of Latin America


December 3


December 8

Commodities and Economic Diversification


December 10

China and Latin America


Final paper due by 3:30 PM on December 15, 2015 in my office, 307 Harkness, my faculty mailbox, or a box outside my office on the third floor of Harkness Hall.

Final (sixty-minute) examination on December 19th at 4:00 PM.
### Grading rubric for weekly participation grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A (Above Standards)</th>
<th>B (Meets Standards)</th>
<th>C (Approaching Standards)</th>
<th>D (Below Standards)</th>
<th>E (No credit)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(50 points)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Student has carefully read and understood the readings as evidenced by familiarity with main ideas, supporting evidence and secondary points. Comes to class prepared with questions and critiques of the readings.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Student has read the material, but comments often indicate that he/she misunderstood or forgot many points or has not thought about questions or critiques of the readings.</td>
<td>Student comes to class unprepared, as indicated by unwillingness or inability to answer basic questions or contribute to discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td><strong>(50 points)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Always attends to what others say as evidenced by regularly building on, clarifying, or responding to their comments.</strong></td>
<td>Generally attends to what others say as evidenced by periodically building on, clarifying, or responding to their comments.</td>
<td>Does not regularly listen well as indicated by the repetition of comments or questions presented earlier, or frequent non sequiturs.</td>
<td>Behavior frequently reflects a failure to listen or attend to the discussion as indicated by repetition of comments and questions, non sequiturs, off-task activities.</td>
<td>Non-attendance</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>A (Above Standards)</td>
<td>B (Meets Standards)</td>
<td>C (Approaching Standards)</td>
<td>D (Below Standards)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completeness (10 points)</td>
<td>All parts of the assignment are addressed.</td>
<td>A minor part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the speaker is addressing it.</td>
<td>A major part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the speaker is addressing it.</td>
<td>Two or more major parts of the assignment are unaddressed or it is unclear how the speaker is addressing them.</td>
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<td>Clarity (10 points)</td>
<td>Ideas are provided in a logical order that makes it easy to follow the speaker's train of thought.</td>
<td>Ideas are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the speaker's train of thought.</td>
<td>A few ideas are not in an expected or logical order, making the presentation a little confusing.</td>
<td>Many ideas are not in an expected or logical order, making the presentation confusing.</td>
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<td>Point of view (30 points)</td>
<td>The presentation has an argument and a thorough discussion of accurate, relevant evidence and examples bolstering that argument.</td>
<td>The presentation has an argument. There is discussion of accurate, relevant evidence and examples bolstering that argument but key evidence is missing or inaccurate.</td>
<td>An argument and at least one piece of accurate, relevant evidence is offered.</td>
<td>There is no argument in the presentation or the evidence and examples are inaccurate, vague and/or irrelevant and/or are not explained.</td>
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<td>Creativity and energy (40 points)</td>
<td>The presentation engages the audience and highlights all important facts and ideas in a memorable manner.</td>
<td>The presentation mostly engages the audience and highlights many important facts and ideas in a memorable manner.</td>
<td>The presentation does not engage the audience, although it does present information.</td>
<td>The presentation is unengaging and uninformative.</td>
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<td>Q&amp;A (10 points)</td>
<td>Provides thoughtful answers to audience questions.</td>
<td>Provides inadequate answers to audience questions.</td>
<td>Provides inadequate answers to audience questions.</td>
<td>Provides inadequate answers to audience questions.</td>
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<td>Grading rubric for five-page papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>A (Above Standards)</td>
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<td>90%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Completeness**
(25 points) | All parts of the assignment are addressed | A minor part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing it. | A major part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing it. | Two or more major parts of the assignment are unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing them. |
| **Clarity**
(25 points) | Ideas are provided in a logical and organized order that makes it easy to follow the author’s argument and thoughts. The author provides guidance to readers. Grammatical and spelling errors are minimal. | Ideas are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it not too hard for readers to follow the argument. Grammatical and spelling errors occur. | Ideas are not presented in an organized or logical order, making the argument difficult to follow. Grammatical and spelling errors occur. | Many ideas are not in an expected or logical order, making the essay confusing. Grammatical and spelling errors are frequent. |
| **Support**
(20 points) | Every point in the argument is supported with valid inferences from evidence or logic. | Minor points are unsupported or supported with invalid or tendentious inferences from evidence or logic. | At least one major point is unsupported or supported with invalid or tendentious inferences from evidence or logic. | Many major points are unsupported or supported with invalid or tendentious inferences from evidence or logic. |
| **Research**
(20 points) | More than five sources, of which at least three are peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly books, are used. Sources include both general background sources and specialized sources. Politicized or popular sources are acknowledged as such when used. | Five sources, of which at least two are peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly books, are used. Politicized or popular sources are mostly acknowledged as such when used. | Five sources, of which at least two are peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly books, are used. Politicized or popular sources are used without acknowledgement. | Fewer than five sources are used, or fewer than two of the minimum five sources used are peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly books. |
| **Source Documentation**
(10 points) | Correct attributions are provided for all quotations, esoteric facts, and original research. | Correct attributions are provided for all quotations, esoteric facts, and original research. | Correct attributions are not provided for quotations, non-trivial facts, and original research. | Correct attributions are not provided for quotations, non-trivial facts, and original research. |