In recent years, Latin America has been seen as experiencing a resurgence. Once plagued by authoritarianism and economic stagnation, many countries in the region have undergone a relatively successful process of democratization while achieving relatively high rates of overall economic growth.

At the same time millions of individual Latin Americans continue to be left behind as recent patterns of economic development benefit primarily a small share of the population. As well the growth that has occurred has been subject to a recurrent tendency towards periods of macro-economic crisis. Equally troubling, while generally democratic, many of the political systems continue to be marked by problems of instability, excessive centralization, and corruption.

In order to assess both the achievements and ongoing dilemmas of Latin American political and economic development, this course will begin by examining the region’s history, analyzing its early development from colonialism through the middle of the twentieth century. Particular emphasis will given to issues concerning populism, corporatism, and bureaucratic authoritarianism. The course will then turn to the period since the 1980s, analyzing the process of democratization and the implementation of economic liberalization programs, as well as the more recent political backlash against this economic model. In each of these sections, the course will emphasize developments in five key Latin American countries—Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Mexico.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

1) Identify the primary effects of Spanish and Portuguese colonialism in Latin America;

2) Have a clear understanding of independence struggles and revolutions in the region, as well as their political aftermath;

3) Understand the emergence of Latin American populism and corporatism;

4) Be able to identify the basic political geography of Latin America;
5) Have the capacity to compare and contrast the different processes of democratization in the region;

6) Understand the impact of the 1980s debt crisis in Latin America;

7) Have a clear familiarity with the process of neoliberal economic reform in the region and the counter-reaction to it by the 2000s;

8) Be familiar with the history and current state of Latin American relations with the United States;

9) Be able to identify the key leaders, historical events, and political structures of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Mexico.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Students are required to attend class regularly and participate in discussions, take an in-class quiz and midterm, write an take-home midterm essay, and complete a final exam. Grades are based on a 1,000 point scale, weighed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Midterm</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-Home Midterm</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>350</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will given in accordance with the number of points received:

- 930–1,000 points: A
- 900–929 points: A–
- 870–899 points: B+
- 830–869 points: B
- 800–829 points: B–
- 770–799 points: C+
- 730–769 points: C
- 700–729 points: C–
- 670–699 points: D+
- 630–669 points: D
- 600–629 points: D–
- Below 600 points: F

*Attendance:* An attendance sheet will be distributed for each regular class session (excluding the days of the in-class midterm and final). Those not attending will need to have a valid and documented excuse to not be docked for missing that day. At the instructor’s discretion, those arriving after roll has been taken may be given half credit for attendance if they talk to the instructor immediately after class.
Up to fifty points for attendance will be allocated in proportion to the number of sessions attended. For example, an 80% attendance rate will earn 40 points for attendance. Excused absences will neither be counted as present nor absent in calculating this percentage (that is, as if there had been no class session that day in that student’s case).

Note that any student caught signing in for a fellow student not in attendance will be considered to be cheating on an assignment and will be disciplined accordingly.

**Participation:** Students are expected not only to attend class regularly, but participate fully in class discussions. Each student will be graded according to the degree to which he or she has participated in discussions regularly and in an informed manner. For average levels of participation, this portion of the grade will roughly match that for attendance, but it will be adjusted upwards or downwards for greater and lesser participation levels.

**Map Quiz:** A quiz will be given at the time of the midterm listed below in which students are expected to identify where each Latin American country is located on a blank map, along with the name of each country’s capital (see the final page of this syllabus for a map with the information you will be quizzed upon). *A passing grade of at least 70 percent (35 points) is required to receive credit for this course.* Students identifying less than 70 percent correct will be expected to retake the exam in office hours until such time as they are able to obtain a passing grade (with the final map quiz grade reflecting the average of the quizzes taken).

**In-Class Midterm:** A multiple-choice midterm will be given during the regular class session listed in the schedule below that will be based on the readings, lectures, and discussions in Parts I, II, and III of the course. Be sure to bring a green, half-sheet sized Scantron (#882-E) and a #2 pencil. At least one week prior to the midterm a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to the material to be covered.

**Take-Home Midterm:** A take-home midterm question based on the material up through Part III of the course will be distributed as the in-class midterm is turned in. It will be due a week later at the beginning of class on the date listed below in the class schedule. The answer should be approximately 5 double-spaced typed pages in length. In addition to the hard copy, *students must submit an exact copy in Word (DOC or DOCX), Rich Text (RTF), or Adobe Portable Document (PDF) format to Turnitin via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. the evening after essay is to be turned into class.* Please begin the file or archive’s name with your last name (the rest of the filename may be anything you wish).

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be held during the university scheduled time as listed below in the regular class room. It will be comprehensive in nature, but will emphasize the readings and lectures since the midterms (that is, Part IV). As with the in-class midterm, at least one week prior to the final a study guide will be distributed giving more details as to its structure and content. As the exam will include both multiple choice and essay questions, students will need to bring at least one bluebook, a green, half-sheet sized Scantron (#882-E), a #2 pencil, and a pen.
REQUIRED READINGS

The book listed below is required and may be purchased from the campus bookstore.


In addition, students are expected to read several journal articles listed below, nearly all of which are available through JSTOR and which, when possible, may be posted as PDFs on Blackboard.

Students are expected to complete the required readings for each topic by the date of that lecture and be prepared to discuss and ask questions about them.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating on papers and exams will result in an automatic failing grade for the course and the reporting of the student to university authorities for disciplinary action, including possible expulsion.

In writing, remember that credit by means of a footnote or endnote must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrased or summarized text, and for information that is not common knowledge. *Ignorance as to what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse.* Students who have questions about the definition of plagiarism should consult the university’s official statement on Academic Dishonesty <http://csrr.sdsu.edu/academics1.html>, or ask the instructor.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In accordance with federal law, individualized accommodations, such as additional time for test taking, will be made for students with disabilities. However, requests for such accommodations must be made by the end of the second full week of instruction and may require approval and certification from Student Disability Services (SDS), Calpulli Center, Suite 3101 <dsstest@mail.sdsu.edu> [619-594-6473].
COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to change)

I) INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Overview of Course (August 25)
Vanden and Prevost 2012, pp. 1-17.

The Legacy of Colonialism (August 27–September 3)

From Comparative Advantage to Import Substitution (September 8–10)

II) THE ROAD TO BUREAUCRATIC AUTHORITARIANISM

Argentine History (September 15–17)

Brazilian History (September 22–24)
Vanden and Prevost 2012, pp. 397-403.

Chilean History (September 29–October 1)

III) REVOLUTION AND PACTED DEMOCRACY

Mexican History (October 6–8)
Vanden and Prevost 2012, pp. 337-353.

**Cuban History (October 13–15)**


→ **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20: MAP QUIZ & MULTIPLE-CHOICE MIDTERM (IN-CLASS)**

→ **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20: ESSAY MIDTERM (TAKE-HOME) DISTRIBUTED**

**IV) BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND NEOLIBERALISM**

*The “Twin Transitions” (October 22–29)*


→ **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 9:30 AM: ESSAY MIDTERM (TAKE-HOME) DUE**

**Argentina Today (November 3–5)**


Grugel, Jean, and Maria Pia Riggirozzi. 2007. The Return of the State in Argentina. International Affairs 83 (1):87-107. [available through JSTOR]

**Brazil Today (November 10–12)**

Vanden and Prevost 2012, pp. 403-421.


**Chile Today (November 17–19)**


**Mexico Today (November 24–December 3)**


**November 26: Thanksgiving Break**

**Cuba Today (December 8–10)**


→ **Thursday, December 17, 8:00–10:00 AM: FINAL EXAM**
COUNTRIES AND CAPITALS COVERED BY MAP QUIZ

[Map of Latin America showing various countries and capitals]