This course examines the ways in which political power is structured, exercised, and (re)distributed in Latin America. Specific topics include established leadership patterns (most notably caudillismo), key institutions (the military and the presidency, for example), influential ideologies and recurrent modes of mobilization (saliently, populism), long-standing problems (such as political violence), and major regime shifts (most recently, democratization).

Section I. addresses these topics from a general/regional and historical perspective. Section II focuses more closely on the relevant issues and ideologies. Section III examines four prominent cases -- Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Venezuela.

Course Requirements:
Class participation (10% of the grade), a midterm take-home exam (30%), and a final take-home exam (60%).

Reading Materials:
All assigned readings are available on TRUNK.

1. Introductory Session
-- No assigned readings

SECTION I. HISTORIC INSTITUTIONS AND MODES OF GOVERNING

SESSIONS 2-3 Legacies, Recurring Patterns
-- Close, Latin American Politics, pp.68-102

SESSIONS 4-9 Authoritarianism, Conflict, Change, Democracy
-- James Malloy, “Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America: The Modal
-- Close, *Latin American Politics*, pp. 105-182

**Where Have All Latin America's Dictators Gone?**

**SECTION II ISSUES AND IDEOLOGIES**

**Sessions 10-12. Populism, the Left. The Center**

**The Return of Populism**

**SECTION III CASES**

**13-15. Mexico**
-- Andrés Manuel López Obrador rebuilds for second Mexican presidential run
**Mexico's Old Rulers Return But Without Strong Mandate**
**Mexico's Ruling Party - The New Old Guard**
**Mexico's Vicente Fox Irks Allies by Urging Unity With Old Ruling Party**
**Andrés Manuel López Obrador**
**Mexico's Lopez Obrador leaves coalition to form new movement**
**How Mexico Ended Political Gridlock**
**Pena Nieto Submits Bill to End Mexico’s 75-Year Oil Monopoly**
**Six Markets to Watch: Mexico**
Mexican political parties at impasse over key reforms
Left Wing Politician Lopez Obrador refers to Oil Reform as “the Robbery of the Century”
Andres Oppenheimer: Mexico’s big oil reform gamble
Political Violence Surrounding Mexico’s Local Elections
In Mexican Politics, the Greens Are ‘Corruption Turned Into a Party’
Violence In Guerrero And The Shifting Tides Of Mexican Politics
Protest votes shake up Mexico’s political landscape, but President Pena Nieto emerges stronger
Punishing bad behaviour

Sessions 16-21. Argentina and Chile
Party politics
Kirchner’s Death Leaves Argentina in Political Disarray
Down Among the Underclass
Argentina's Uncertain Future
Argentina to Seize Control of Oil Company
Argentina's President Fernandez Demands Falklands Talks
Is Argentina's Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner the next Evita?
It's 'for or against' Kirchner in Argentina - and its primary elections
Kirchner Signals No Course Change Despite Poor Election Showing
Peso panic and rocketing prices shake the throne of Argentina's Queen Cristina
Cristina Fernández de Kirchner: The CFK psychodrama
Silent, but seething
‘Kirchnerismo’ politics set to outlast Argentina’s outgoing president
Argentine presidential candidate would try to ease divisions
Argentine president dominates campaign ahead of primaries
Finger pointing in Argentina after police break up protests

Chile Earthquake
Chilean President Rides High as Term Ends
Michelle Bachelet
Why is Piñera's Government So Unpopular In Chile?
Mea culpa, Economy Boost Chile Pinera's Approval
Conservatives Accuse Bachelet of ‘intervention’ in Chilean Politics
Could an “Alternative” Candidate Win the Chilean Election?
Chile’s Past Intrudes on Current Presidential Election
Chile Judge Rejects Charging Candidate's Father
Bachelet by a mile
Bachelet pledges radical constitutional reforms after winning Chilean election
The Political Economy of Progressive Tax Reform in Chile
Ending the permanent draw
Chile in Crisis
Chilean president asks cabinet to resign
Scandals Upend Bachelet’s Reform Agenda—and Chile’s Political Class
Three Issues Undermine Bachelet in Chile

Sessions 22-24. Venezuela

Venezuela's Chavez Says Election Loss Would Spark Civil War
Venezuela Gives Chávez Protégé Narrow Victory
Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Says He Sleeps In Hugo Chavez's Mausoleum
Analysis: Under fire, Venezuela's Maduro vows new graft crackdown
Venezuelan Leader Seeks to Boost His Power
Venezuelan Protests: Latin America Is Watching
As Venezuela’s Maduro confronts economic crisis, pragmatism is a risky path
Venezuela's leader Nicolas Maduro divides opinion
Venezuelan leader says Colombia plotting his assassination
Venezuela Is Slowly Coming Apart—and President Nicolas Maduro May Pay the Price
Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro given power to rule by decree
Venezuela’s Maduro Faces His Biggest Test in December 6 Vote
Venezuela's Opposition Aims To Win Big In Legislative Elections
What's at stake in Venezuela's legislative elections?
Venezuela is in a state of emergency — and it could stay that way into crucial elections
Colombians Flee Venezuela’s Crackdown on Immigrants

Session 25. CONCLUSION
-- Review all the assigned readings for an in-class general discussion.