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:**
A midterm take-home exam (40% of the grade) 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 2-6 Legacies, Recurring Patterns**
-- Close, *Latin American Politics*, pp.68-102

**SESSIONS 7-12 Authoritarianism, Conflict, Change, Democracy**
-- James Malloy, “Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America: The Modal Pattern,” in Roderic Aid Camp, ed., *Democracy in Latin America, Patterns and*
Where Have All Latin America's Dictators Gone?

SECTION II ISSUES AND IDEOLOGIES

Sessions 13-16. Populism, the Left. The Center

The Return of Populism
-- Benjamin Arditì, “Arguments about the Left Turns in Latin America, LARR, 43:3 2008

SECTION III CASES

17-18. 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

Sessions 19-22. 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 Kirchmer 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


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
Bachelet 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

Sessions 23-24. Venezuela
Power Shift: Venezuela’s Chavez is Gaining Ground
Venezuelan Economy Grew 5.4% on Spending Ahead of Elections
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

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