Course Objectives
This course has two main objectives. The first is to introduce students to several themes that are most relevant to Latin American politics today, including democratization and democratic performance, the politics of economic development and reform, the formation and politicization of ethnic identities, and several more. The second objective is to teach students how to apply general theoretical ideas about these themes to the contemporary Latin American experience. To do this well, the students will need 1) to study the political and historical experiences of specific Latin American countries, and 2) to learn how to compare these different cases with the aim of evaluating theoretical arguments and understanding why political outcomes differ from one country to the next. In the latter half of the course, we will focus on the cases of Chile, Mexico, and Venezuela, but we will also compare these cases to other Latin American countries.

Assignments and Grading
Students are expected to complete all of the assigned reading on time, to attend class regularly, and to participate in class discussions. If you miss a class, you should secure class notes from another student and come to the next class prepared. If you miss more than 4 classes without proper University documentation, your course grade will fall by one half of a letter grade per additional absence.

Written assignments include five short paper assignments, in-class quizzes, and an in-class final exam. Written assignments will not be accepted late without prior approval or proper University documentation. All papers will be submitted through the Blackboard website; instructions will be disseminated with the first assignment.

You should feel free to study together, to go over returned papers or study questions together, and to share lecture notes. But at no time should students communicate with each other in any way about pending writing assignments. Nor should students consult, copy, or cite any essays written on similar topics when developing their own written work. Your ideas and your responses to the questions asked of you should truly be your own.
Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

10% for class participation = 10%
8% for each of 5 short paper assignments = 40%
4% for each of 5 in-class quizzes = 20%
30% for the final exam = 30%

TOTAL = 100%

**Electronic Devices**
Please do not use any electronic devices, including laptop computers, during class time.

**Books and Readings**
The following books are available for purchase at the SU Bookstore (in the Schine Student Center):

- Isabel Allende, *House of the Spirits*
- Javier Auyero, *Contentious Lives: Two Argentine Women, Two Protests, and the Quest for Recognition*
- Guillermo O’Donnell and Philippe Schmitter, *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*

Copies of these books are also available in print form at the reserve desk at Bird Library. All other readings on the syllabus can be found in electronic form on the Blackboard website for the course. Look under the “Documents” link, where the articles are listed by author’s last name and publication year. Where I have assigned a book or a large section of a book (several chapters), I am not allowed to post the material directly, and you must either purchase the book or use the paper copy at the reserve desk.
Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
There is no room for academic dishonesty in this class. I do submit formal reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences when I find that academic dishonesty or plagiarism has occurred. I encourage all students to update their understanding of what counts as academic dishonesty by visiting this website: http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/.

Disability-Related Accommodations
Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/

Religious Observances
SU’s religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. For fall and spring semesters, an online notification process is available through MySlice/Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances from the first day of class until the end of the second week of class.

*** All students should feel free to discuss any of the issues *** mentioned on this page with me at any time.
### Daily Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
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</table>
| 1       | Aug 25    | Introductory Lecture  
| 2       | Aug 27    | Traditional and Modern Societies  
| ***     | Sept 1    | LABOR DAY – NO CLASS |
| 3       | Sept 3    | Mass Politics and Political Conflict  
| 4       | Sept 8    | Political Conflict: Breakdown of Democracy  
QUIZ #1 |
| 5       | Sept 10   | Conflict in Peru  
IN CLASS FILM: *State of Fear* |
| 6       | Sept 15   | Political Conflict: Civil Wars and US Interventions  
| 7       | Sept 17   | The Causes of Democratization I  
PAPER #1 ASSIGNED |
| 8       | Sept 22   | The Causes of Democratization II  
Sept 24 Institutions and Democratic Stability

QUIZ #2

Sept 29 Democratic Performance I

PAPER #1 DUE

Oct 1 Democratic Performance II

PAPER #2 ASSIGNED

Oct 6 The Rise of the Left in Latin America

Oct 8 Political Economy I: From ISI to Neoliberalism

Oct 13 Political Economy II: Why Reform is Politically Difficult
Javier Auyero, Contentious Lives, pp.15-59. [bookstore or library reserve]
PAPER #2 DUE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Political Economy III: The Human Costs of Economic Reform</td>
<td>Javier Auyero, <em>Contentious Lives</em>, pp.60-100 [bookstore or library reserve]</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>QUIZ #3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PAPER #3 ASSIGNED</strong></td>
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PAPER #4 DUE

23 Nov 12    Venezuela: Elite Democracy and its Eventual Breakdown

PAPER #5 ASSIGNED

24 Nov 17    Venezuela: Two Documentaries on Chavez

IN CLASS FILM: We will view portions of two documentaries on contemporary Venezuela: *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised* (2002), and *The Hugo Chavez Show* (2008).

25 Nov 19    Venezuela: After Chávez

PAPER #5 DUE

*** THANKSGIVING BREAK ***

26 Dec 1     The United States in Latin America

QUIZ #5

27 Dec 3     Review for Final Exam

FINAL     Dec 12, 12:45 – 2:45pm, Eggers 018