COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar for advanced undergraduates examines one of the world's most dynamic, diverse and rapidly changing regions. It surveys Latin America's search for democracy from colonial to contemporary times. Students examine differing perspectives on the nature of democracy and explore Latin American political history and development, including the indigenous foundations, the colonial impositions, and more recent foreign intervention. The course examines political structures and values, the authoritarian presidency, military politicization, party competition and electoral politics. The course also examines state-society relations, the immense inequality, the changing role of women and the remobilization of indigenous peoples and the impact of liberalization and reactions from civil society. The course concludes by examining prospects for consolidation of democracy and liberalization in the contemporary era of globalization, and the significance of the rise of the political left.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be expected to volunteer for one assignment as presenters to make up 20% of the final grade. Presentations should focus on the principal themes of the assigned articles organized around the topics distributed to the class. Each week we will cover 2 debate themes each taking one half of the seminar. Students should meet prior to the class to work out who will present on each side of each debate question to ensure that differing views are covered on both topics. Presentations should not exceed 10 minutes each in length. Presenters should avoid reading their papers and should instead highlight a few key points.

Presenters should submit a written version of their presentation to the professor each week at the start of class before they present. (Points will be deducted for essays submitted after the presentation). Presenters should coordinate their participation before class, to ensure that all assigned readings are covered and the debate topics are thoroughly explored. The presentation must be based on a thorough reading of the required articles. The presentations are NOT article summaries but should involve a reasoned argument on the assigned themes. Graduates should use some recommended as well as required readings for their presentations.

Students are expected to attend regularly and participate in other weeks for 10%. Any student missing more than TWO classes without a valid medical or compassionate excuse will receive no participation mark.

An essay proposal with outline and annotated bibliography, due on February 13, will be worth 10%. Students can choose their own essay topic, but it must be on Latin American domestic politics and they receive prior approval of the instructor. A list of suggested topics will be distributed in class. The research essay of 10 -12 pages due on March 27, is worth 30%.

ALL essay assignments and presentation papers must be submitted formally to the professor on time in print and electronic form for processing via SafeAssign. Late papers will be penalized at a rate of 2% per working day.

The final examination will be worth 30%; it will be scheduled by the registrar’s office in April. Undergraduates write a 2 hour exam

READINGS: The required text for this course is Peter Smith, Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective 2nd ed. Oxford, 2012. Many electronic resources have been collected on the OWL page for this course or on reserve at the Killam Library. Some reserve texts provide country studies. These include Harry E Vanden and Gary Prevost Politics of Latin America : the power game; Howard Wiarda and Harvey Kline, Latin American Politics and Development Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America; and Duncan Green Faces of Latin America.
LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS ON THE INTERNET: There are many useful web pages on Latin American politics, history, journalism, society and culture. The rapidly changing nature of the subject matter makes these pages an invaluable resource for essay research on contemporary themes. Some of these will be linked to the BLS page for the course, which remains “under construction”.

ACADEMIC JOURNALS ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES: Useful journals online, in the library or at other local universities include Latin American Perspectives, the Canadian Journal of Latin American Studies, Latin American Research Review, Journal of Latin American Studies, NACLA’s Report on the Americas, Third World Quarterly and many others.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

1. Democracy in Latin American Politics

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, “Introduction”

Howard Wiarda and Harvey Kline, Latin American Politics and Development Chapter 1.
*Link to full e-book

Recommended: Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America "Prologue"
Killam In-Library Reserves: F1413 .S55 2005

2. Historical Overview of Latin American Politics

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapters 1, 2

Marshall C. Eakin “Does Latin America Have a Common History?”
sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/files/b/bqYe9W/Eakin.pdf

*Link to full e-book

Recommended: Donald J. Mabry, Colonial Latin America Historical Text Archive
historicaltextarchive.com/latin/colonial.pdf

Skidmore and Smith, Chapter 1, 2
Killam In-Library Reserves: F1413 .S55 2005

Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America Chapter 7.
Killam In-Library Reserves: F 1414 G74 2006
3. External Influence and American Intervention

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 3

Peter Hakim, “The Uneasy Americas” Foreign Affairs 80, 2 March 2001, 46-61.


Recommended:


Skidmore and Smith, Chapter 11.
Ki1l1am In-Library Reserves: F1413 .S55 2005

4. The Political Culture of Presidentialism

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapters 5, 6, 156-75.

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1081/PAD-200055210


Recommended:


5. Political Parties and Elections

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 6. 175-80, Chapter 7

Christopher Sabatini “The decline of ideology and the rise of "quality of politics" parties in Latin America” World Affairs 165, 2, Fall 2002, 106-110. 

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://ppq.sagepub.com/content/19/1/122.full.pdf+html

http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://ppq.sagepub.com/content/9/2/139.full.pdf+html


http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0007123408000446


6. The Military in Latin American Politics

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 3


**Recommended:**


**Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America Chapter 8.**  
Killam In-Library Reserves: F 1414 G74 2006

7. Women in Latin American Politics

**Read:** Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 9 p. 243-53.


**Recommended:**
http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0007123408000458

Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America Chapter 10. Killam In-Library Reserves: F 1414 G74 2006

Francesca Miller, “Latin American Women and the Search for Social, Political and Economic Transformation” in S.Halebsky and R. Harris, Capital, Power and Inequality in Latin America  See PDF in Readings Folder

8. Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Diversity

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 9 p. 253-62.


Michael Kearney and Stefano Varese, “Latin America’s Indigenous Peoples: Changing Identities and Forms of Resistance” in Halebsky and Harris Capital, Power and Inequality in Latin America PDF in Readings Folder

Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America Chapter 11. Killam In-Library Reserves: F 1414 G74 2006


9. Social Inequality and Civil Society

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapter 8, 9 p. 237-43.


Recommended:
10. Liberalization, Leftism and Democracy

Read: Peter H. Smith, Democracy in Latin America, Chapters 10, 11, 12, epilogue


Francisco Panizza and Romina Miorelli "Populism and Democracy in Latin America" Ethics and International Affairs 23, 1, 2009 39-.

Maxwell A. Cameron “Latin America's Left Turns: beyond good and bad” Third World Quarterly 30, 2 (March 2009), 331-348.

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See PDF in Readings Folder

Benjamin Arditi, Arguments about the left turns in Latin America - A post-liberal politics? Latin American Research Review 43, 3 59-81


11. Interpretations of Latin American Politics


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http://ezproxy.library.dal.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01436590902959024

Andre Gunder Frank, “Latin American Development Theories Revisited” Latin American Perspectives 19, 2 (Spring, 1992), 125-139.


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STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:
Participation 10%
Presentation 20%
Essay Preview (Feb. 13) 10%
Essay (March 27) 30%
Final Exam 30% (in April exam period)
Late Penalty on in class assignments: 2% per working day.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarisms and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12 Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Dalhousie University subscribes to SafeAssign, a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student must be submitted on OWL via the SafeAssign system to be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website.

The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by Turnitin.com. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by Turnitin.com.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca for more information and to obtain Form A - Request for Accommodation.

A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is a honorarium of $75 per course per term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836.

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.