Bienvenid@s! Welcome to the study of Latin American politics. This course provides an introduction to the dynamic politics of Latin America, and will provide students with the basic tools for analyzing the changing political dynamics of that region. Latin America is an exciting area of the world with a wide variety of patterns of political and economic development. The first part of the course will provide a brief overview of historical developments in state and economy in the region since the pre-Conquest period. We will look at the roots of economic underdevelopment and political authoritarianism, at changing state-society relations, and at some of the main actors in Latin American politics (including external actors like the U.S.). Discussion of general trends will be accompanied by case studies from specific Latin American countries.

The rest of the course will focus on recent trends in Latin American politics. In recent decades, Latin America has been undergoing a rapid process of political and economic transition. Authoritarian regimes have been transformed into democracies, although significant authoritarian tendencies continue to prevail, and some countries face possible reversal of democratic reforms. As well, the market-oriented economic policies that were imposed after the debt crisis of the early 1980s were challenged by “new left” regimes in many countries of the region during the early 2000s, but more recently we have seen a swing back toward the right side of the political spectrum in some countries. We will examine these recent economic and political reforms, and also look at the rise of “new” political actors, like women and indigenous peoples, and conclude with a discussion of threats to public security. The discussion of general trends will be complemented by a discussion of specific country case studies.

**Evaluation:**

- Class participation and attendance: 10%
- Map quiz (in class September 21st): 5%
- Group presentation & report: 15%
- Mid-term exam (in class October 12th): 20%
- Research essay (to be submitted on CULearn site by 11:55 pm on November 23rd): 25%
- Final exam (in exam period): 25%
Text:

http://octopusbooks.ca/students#faqs

Note: Octopus requests that you come equipped with the instructor’s name as well as the course code.

All other readings will be available through Ares on CULearn or on the course CULearn website.

Evaluation and Assignments:

Participation: Class attendance and participation are extremely important elements of this class. Attendance will be taken; late arrivals will not receive full credit. Students who participate regularly will receive a better grade than those who remain quiet. Come to class ready to discuss ideas and raise questions. As participants in this class, you are expected to complete the daily readings prior to class and make informed contributions to the discussion. This means that you will be prepared to respond to questions I may pose in class about the assigned readings. Additionally, you are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions. I realize that some students are uncomfortable participating in large group discussions, so participation can also include coming to my office hours and talking about the material.

If you have to miss more than one class in a row due to illness or family emergency, please e-mail me.

Use of Laptops and other electronic devices during lectures:

You may use a laptop for the purpose of taking notes, but please be aware that the use of laptops and other electronic devices can be distracting, both for yourself and for those around you. Please read: Michael Oliveira, “Students' use of laptops in class lowers grades: Canadian study”, http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/

Please SWITCH OFF other electronic devices such as cell phones, Ipods, tablets (unless you use them for taking notes) etc.

Map Quiz – There will be a 10-minute geography quiz on September 21st. You must be able to identify the name of the country and its capital on a blank map (we will not include Caribbean countries not considered part of Latin America). See the map in Vanden and Prevost on the page before Chapter 1. The following is the list of countries and capitals that will be included in the quiz:

**North America**
Mexico – Mexico City

**Caribbean:**
Haiti – Port Au Prince
Central America
Guatemala – Guatemala City
Belize – Belmopan
Honduras – Tegucigalpa
Costa Rica – San José

South America
Colombia – Bogotá
Ecuador – Quito
Peru – Lima
Bolivia – La Paz or Sucre
Paraguay – Asunción

Dominican Republic – Santo Domingo
Cuba – Havana
El Salvador – San Salvador
Nicaragua – Managua
Panama – Panama City

Venezuela – Caracas
Brazil – Brasília
Chile – Santiago
Uruguay – Montevideo
Argentina – Buenos Aires

Group Presentation on Current Events/Issues – 15%

In week 2 you will sign up for a group presentation. Each group of students will make a 30-minute oral presentation about a contemporary issue affecting a Latin American country (or countries). Presentations, which will normally start at 2:35 p.m., will address the following issues (I may add an additional topic depending on the size of the class)

1. Fight against violence and impunity in Honduras and Guatemala
2. Economic and political crisis in Venezuela;
3. Reforms in Cuba and relations with the U.S.
4. Impact of Trump presidency on Mexico;
5. Canadian mining in Latin America
6. Indigenous struggles
7. Colombian peace agreement;
8. Security crisis and migration in the Northern Triangle of Central America
9. Elections and democracy in Mexico

Powerpoints are encouraged; short videos may also be helpful. See list of useful websites in this course outline for help in researching your topic.

Requirements for this presentation:

- One week before your presentation, each group must submit a (short) list of the topics you will cover and a short bibliography with sources you will use; (worth 5% of total grade)
- 2 days before the presentation, someone in the group should send me your powerpoint so that I can post it to the course website;
- Day of the presentation: Each individual must submit a 2-page (double spaced) report summarizing the main points of his/her oral presentation. Due in class the same day as your presentation. This report will not be graded individually.
You will receive both an individual and group mark on the oral presentation. Individual grade: based on these factors: enthusiasm; clear, dynamic presentation style; clear and interesting powerpoint; accuracy and relevance of information, and timing (i.e. don’t go over your time limit!)

Group mark: based on a dynamic team, members help each other and work as a group.
I will also ask each group member to evaluate each other’s participation by submitting a grade for each group member (their evaluation is confidential).

Research essay (25%): 

Students will write one research essay on a topic from a list of questions to be distributed in class. These papers should be 10 to 12 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins) and should use a range of scholarly sources and research materials (at least 8-10 sources). This paper is expected to show original analysis, sustaining an argument which will be supported with evidence. The paper should demonstrate careful and critical consideration of a broad range of carefully chosen, quality research sources (including peer-reviewed scholarly publications).

Late Penalties
Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day (the weekend will be treated as one day). Papers will not be accepted two weeks after the due date.

Exceptions will be made only in those cases where the student has written documentation, e.g. medical reasons.

Useful Websites:
Latin America Network Information Center at the University of Texas, Austin: http://www.lanic.utexas.edu.
Political Database of the Americas at Georgetown University http://www.georgetown.edu/LatAmerPolitical/home.html.
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America www.eclac.org.cl
Organization of American States www.oas.org
Washington Office on Latin America www.wola.org

I strongly encourage you to sign up for this weekly update on Latin American news in English: Latin America News Roundup, produced by Center for Economic Policy Research (in English) - Free subscription available at: http://org.salsalabs.com/o/967/t/9788/signUp.jsp?key=1013

READING LIST
Part I:  Introduction and Historical Background

Week 1 - September 7th – Introduction to the course and to Studying Latin America
Vanden and Prevost, Introduction (pp. xxiii - xxix) and Chapter 1, pp. 1-18.

Film: When Worlds Collide: The Untold Story of the Americas After Columbus (87 minutes)

**Week 2 - September 14th – Short survey of Latin American History**

**Students will sign up today for oral group presentations – be ready to choose your topic!**

Vanden and Prevost, all of Chapter 2 and Chapter 3, pp. 43-66.

**Week 3 - September 21st – Latin American Political Economy – Modernization and Dependency**

Map quiz today - first 10 minutes of class!!

**Time for Group work - end of class**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7 (first part), pp.157-174.


**Week 4 - September 28th – Forms of Authoritarianism - Caudillos, Populism and Military Dictatorships**

**Time for Group work - end of class**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8, pp.192-198.


**Week 5 - October 5th – Democratization and Consolidation? – 1980s – 2000s**

**Group Presentation 1: Fight against impunity**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 8.


**Week 6 - October 12th - Neoliberalism**
IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAM

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 7 (continued) pp. 174-191.


“Maquilapolis” video

Week 7 - October 19th - Movements for Change: Revolutions and Civil Society

Group presentation 2: Crisis in Venezuela

Group presentation 3: Economic and Political Reforms in Cuba

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 10.


READING WEEK - NO CLASSES OCTOBER 26!

Week 8 - November 2nd - Role of the United States

Group presentation 4: Trump and Mexico

Group presentation 5: Canadian mining

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 11


Week 9 - November 9th — From Neo-Liberalism to Post-Neoliberalism (and back?)

Special Guest Speaker: Vladimir Díaz Cuellar, PhD Candidate, Carleton, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies


Case Study: Bolivia, Waltraud Q. Morales, “Bolivia,” Chapter 18 in Vanden & Prevost

Week 10 - November 16th - Gender and Sexuality

**Group Presentation 6: Indigenous Struggles**

Vanden and Prevost, Chapter 5.


Week 11 - November 23rd – Human Rights, Drugs, and Insecurity

**FINAL ESSAY DUE NOVEMBER 25TH by 11:55 pm - to be submitted online on CULearn**

**Group presentation 7: Peace agreement in Colombia**

**Group presentation 8: Security crisis in Northern Triangle**


[Video: Children on the Run in Central America (2017), UNHCR.]

Week 12 - November 30th - Inequality and Social Policy - and Review

**Group Presentation 9: Democratization and elections in Mexico - November 30**


**Academic Accommodations**

**Requests for Academic Accommodation**
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](carleton.ca/pmc)

**Survivors of Sexual Violence**
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**Accommodation for Student Activities**
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. [https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)
For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

**Plagiarism**
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**Submission and Return of Term Work**
Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading**
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Approval of final grades
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts
All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society
"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline
The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.