Students graduating from Texas A&M – Corpus Christi should be able to demonstrate awareness and knowledge of distinct cultures or subcultures, including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, class, political systems, religions, languages, or human geography. Different types of political rule have marked the Latin American landscape in the twentieth century. This course attempts to understand these differences. The course begins by examining the democracies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay from the end of World War II to the onset of authoritarian rule in the 1960s and 1970s. It next compares explanations for the emergence of authoritarian rule and for the return of democratization in these countries. The effects of economic policy choice under military rule are highlighted here. The course then examines countries that remained democratic over the past forty years, including Colombia and Venezuela. From this, relations between the United States and Central America and Mexico are discussed, with issues of revolution in Cuba coming to the forefront. The course concludes by examining the government and politics in Latin America in the 1990s and beyond.

Grades will be based on an in-class midterm (25%), two essays (30%) and final (25%). Class participation is strongly encouraged and is worth 20% of your final grade.

Grade Scale
A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69; F=less than 60%

Course Grades
Course grades are based on the following:

50% Midterm and Final
30% Essays
20% Class Participation

Required Texts

Assigned readings mentioned as “in the reader” are available on Blackboard.
**Learning Outcomes**
Students will be able to:

1. Obtain a basic understanding of the politics and economics of the Latin American region.
2. Identify the democratic transitions and on-going democratic deepening in the region.
3. Define key political institutions and players in Latin American governments.
4. Understand important current events in the Latin American region.
5. Apply this knowledge to current events, books, and movies focused on Latin America.
6. Develop your writing skills through applied writing exercises.

**Outcome Assessments**
Examinations and a term paper will be used to assess the learning outcomes. The first five learning outcome will be assessed through essay and identification terms on midterm and final examinations. The sixth and seventh outcomes will be assessed based on a term paper and oral debates and class participation.

**Course Policies:**
You are expected to come prepared for class and to make thoughtful contribution in class. If you do not understand something, ask. It is very important that we discuss issues related to government and their impact on the community. You should be exposed to a variety of opinions that may differ from your own. Respect those opinions and use them to help you reflect on why people hold different views.

Class lectures provide the basis for the course. Concepts and information that I deem important will be presented in class. Regular and consistent attendance is essential if you want to do well in the course.

**Class Attendance:**
All students are expected to attend EVERY class. The major valid excuses for missing a class are illness and death. In order to maximize attendance, I will take random roll call using sign-in sheets throughout the semester. If you have an excused absence (university-related, illness with M.D. excuse), you must bring me documentation. **I may issue extra credit points at random based on attendance at my discretion.**

**Makeup Exams:**
Make-up exams will be allowed only for emergencies and with advanced approval. These exams will be different from the regular exams and may require documented proof of emergency.
- You need to contact me to determine if you can take a make-up exam.
- If you have an unexcused reason for missing the exam, you will be able to take the missed exam on the day of the final exam.
- You will be offered the opportunity to take a comprehensive replacement exam to replace your lowest grade on the day of the final.
Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of F.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 15, 2013 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term.

Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Academic Etiquette:
There are certain rules that apply to my classes. It is difficult to learn in an environment that is not conducive to leaning. Such activities include: talking to neighbors during class, reading newspapers, walking in late and going up the central aisle, napping, walking out of class prior to being dismissed. It is disrespectful to me and to the class. If you do not abide by these rules, you will be asked to leave my class. Please silence your cell phones during my class.
**Incompletes:**
A grade of incomplete will be given only for extreme emergencies and will necessitate appropriate documentation. You must request a grade of “incomplete” and sign a form agreeing to the terms for a grade of I. However, you must have completed 75% of the coursework.

*Notice to Students with Disabilities:* The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

***GRADE APPEALS PROCESS:*** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Jan 23: **Introduction**

Jan 28-30: **The Political and Economic History of Latin America**
O’Toole Chapter 1

Feb 4-6: **The Political and Economic History of Latin America**
O’Toole Chapter 1

Feb 11-13: **Waves of Democracy**
O’Toole Chapter 2

Feb 18-20: **Presidentialism and Executives**
O’Toole Chapter 6

Feb 25-27: **Legislatures**
O’Toole Chapter 7
**In Class Midterm February 27**

Mar 4-6 **Elections**
Film: The Battle of Chile
O’Toole Chapter 7

March 10-14 **Spring Break**

Mar 18-20: **Courts and Bureaucracies**
O’Toole Chapter 7

Mar 25-27: **Political Actors**
O’Toole Chapter 8
**Battle of Chile Essay Due Mar 25**

Apr 1-3: **Debt Burden**
O’Toole Chapter 15

Apr 8-10: **Central America and the US in the Cold War**
Pardo, Rafael. 2000. “Colombia’s Two-Front War.” In the Reader.
Apr 15-17: **Drugs**

Apr 22-24: **Mexico-US: An Evolving Relationship**
Boyle

Apr 29-May 1: **Immigration**
Boyle

May 6: **Politics of Latin America into the Twenty-First Century**
Tortilla Curtain Essay Due May 6

**Final Exam: TBD**