Most South American countries pursued populist economic strategies and suffered repeated, and sometimes prolonged and violent, periods of military rule during much of the twentieth century. During the 1980s and 1990s, however, all South American countries democratized, and most also changed the basic thrust of their economic policies. This class will explore why the military interventions occurred, why they may have stopped occurring during the last two decades, and the relationship between economic policy and political instability. During the first five weeks, we will focus especially on Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, and on the most recent cycle of democracy-authoritarianism-redemocratization. Venezuela will serve as a contrasting case that remained democratic throughout the period of crisis in the rest of Latin America.

During the first five weeks, we will look at the way the democracies in these countries functioned between the end of World War II and the onset of authoritarian interludes, with special emphasis on the relationship between economic policy choices, popular support for democracy, and military involvement with politics. We will examine explanations for the emergence of very repressive forms of dictatorship during the 1960s and 1970s. The purpose of examining this historical period is to help understand the current economic and political situation in Latin America.

The second half of the class begins with an examination of redemocratization and the neoliberal economic reforms that have occurred in South America since the 1980s. We will assess the effects of the economic reforms on inequality, the rise of the left, and corruption. The final section of the course links political institutions to economic performance and prospects for stable democracy. It contrasts the current political and economic situation in Venezuela with conditions in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Grades will be based on an in-class midterm, a 10 page research paper, and a take-home final. You must attend lectures and sections to do well in this class; the reading does not cover all important ideas.

Only in case of illness or other extreme circumstances will the final be due at any time other than that scheduled. If you cannot take the final for this class at the scheduled time, do not sign up for the class.

Required reading:
Most readings are available on the class website, https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/15S-POLSCI154B-1 or other websites.

Some articles can be accessed through JSTOR. To use JSTOR, go to www.jstor.com. When the screen comes up, type the author’s name or click “advanced search” and follow instructions.

Useful for learning about current economics and politics in particular countries:
Economist Intelligence Unit, Country Report, available on-line via UCLA library or at the Business School library in hard copy.
Latin American Regional Report and Latin American Weekly Report, both at Young Research Library
Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week I, Tu Mar 31 and Th April 2
Early Democracy in Latin America: Basic Features
Background Reading:
   http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/brtoc.html
   http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cltoc.html
   “History of Argentina” at Wikipedia.com,
   http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/vetoc.html

The purpose of this week’s reading is to give students an outline of aspects of the history of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Venezuela relevant for the first few weeks of PS 154B.

Week II, Tu April 7 and Th April 9
Economic Policy and Political Instability: Competing Views
   O'Donnell, Modernization and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism, pp. 55-111, class website
   Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development, pp. 25-44, on class website

April 9: CHOOSE COUNTRIES/TOPICS FOR RESEARCH PAPER.
Begin reading about your topic.

Week III, Tu April 14 and Th April 16
The Breakdown of Democracy in Chile and Argentina
   Constable and Valenzuela, A Nation of Enemies: Chile under Pinochet, pp. 9-63
   O'Donnell, "An Impossible 'Game': Party Competition in Argentina, 1955-66,” both on class website

Week IV, Tu April 21 and Th April 23
The Military and Democratic Breakdown in Brazil
   Stepan, The Military in Politics, pp. 123-212, on class website

April 23 STUDY QUESTIONS WILL BE PASSED OUT
Week V, Tu April 28
Review: Alternative Explanations for Economic Crisis and Military Intervention

MIDTERM: April 30, in class

Week VI, Tu May 5 and Th May 7
Democratization and Democratic Consolidation
May 5: Vacs, "Authoritarian Breakdown and Redemocratization in Argentina," Skidmore, "Brazil's Slow Road to Democratization, 1974-1985," both on class website

May 5 RESEARCH DESIGN ASSIGNMENT WILL BE PASSED OUT.

May 7: The Changing Role of the Military in Politics:
Pion-Berlin and Arceneaux, “Tipping the Civil-Military Balance: Institutions and Human Rights Policy in Democratic Argentina and Chile,” on class website
Hunter, "Politicians against Soldiers: Contesting the Military in Postauthoritarian Brazil," Comparative Politics (July 1995), access via JSTOR, discipline is political science

Week VII, Tu May 12 and Th May 14
Economic Liberalization and Its Consequences
May 12: The Causes of Economic Liberalization:
Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development, pp. 45-54, available on class website, week 2
Rodrik, "Understanding Economic Policy Reform," Journal of Economic Literature (3/96), access via JSTOR, discipline is economics

May 12: ONE-PAGE RESEARCH DESIGN ASSIGNMENT DUE, beginning of class. Research papers will not be accepted unless a research design assignment has been handed in and approved.

May 14: Consequences of Economic Liberalization: Growth, Declining Inequality, Vulnerability to International Financial Crises
Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development, pp. 54-90, on class website, week 2 (note that much of the data Kingstone cites here refers only to the first ten years of economic reform, before the commodities boom which began in 2003.
Lustig, Nora and Darryl McLeod, “Are Latin America’s New Left Regimes Reducing Inequality Faster? Addendum to Poverty, Inequality and the New Left in Latin America,” Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars; Latin American program (7/11),
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/are-latin-americas-new-left-regimes-reducing-inequality-faster-addendum-to-poverty
Colburn, “Latin America: Captive to Commodities,” Dissent (2009),
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/dissent/v056/56.1.colburn.pdf
Week VIII, Tu May 19 and Th May 21
Political Consequences of Economic Liberalization
May 19: Corruption

May 21: The Rise of the Left
Dietz and Myers, “From Thaw to Deluge: Party System Collapse in Venezuela and Peru,” JSTOR
Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America: Reflections on Neoliberalism and Development*, pp. 91-126

Week IX, Tu May 26 and Th May 28
May 26: The Consequences of Neo-Populism in Venezuela
De la Torre, Carlos, “In the Name of the People: Democratization, Popular Organizations, an Populism in Venezuela,” 2013, JSTOR
Ellner, Steve, “Hugo Chavez’s First Decade in Office: Breakthroughs and Shortcomings” 2010, JSTOR
Carroll, *Comandante: Hugo Chavez’s Venezuela*, excerpts, on class website (Carroll is an Irish journalist who started out sympathetic to Chavez and became disenchanted.)

May 28: Oil and the Turn toward the Left
“Everything you want to know about falling oil prices,” *Economist* 2015,

Week X, Tu June 2 and Th June 4
June 2: HARD COPY OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE, beginning of class. POST A COPY ON TURN-IT-IN.COM BEFORE CLASS.
FINAL EXAM PASSED OUT
The Link between Democratic Politics and Stable Growth
June 2: Aninat et al., “Political Institutions, Policymaking Processes, and Policy Outcomes in Chile,” in Stein and Tommasi, on class website
Spiller and Tommasi, “Political Institutions, Policymaking Processes, and Policy Outcomes in Argentina,” in Stein and Tommasi, on class website
Monaldi et al., “Political Institutions and Policymaking in Venezuela: The Rise and Collapse of Political Cooperation,” in Stein and Tommasi, on class website

June 4: Review for Final

FINAL EXAM DUE THU, JUNE 11, 2015. POST IT ON TURN-IT-IN.COM, AND SEND IT AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT TO PROFESSOR GEDDES AND YOUR TA.