Most South American countries pursued populist economic strategies and suffered repeated, and sometimes prolonged and violent, periods of military dictatorship 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 25 years, 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 last cycle of democracy-authoritarianism-redemocratization in those countries. Venezuela will serve as a contrasting case that remained democratic throughout the period of crisis in the rest of Latin America.

During the first few 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 (liberalization) on inequality, the rise of the left, and corruption. The last weeks of the class contrast the current political and economic situation in Venezuela with conditions in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Grades will be based on a take-home midterm, a 10-page research paper, and an in-class 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 offered 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/17W-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
Week I, Tu Jan 10 and Th Jan 12
Early Democracy in Latin America: Basic Features
Background Reading:
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 Jan 17 and Th Jan 19
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
Johnson, “Problems of Import Substitution: The Chilean Automobile Industry,”
http://www.jstor.org/stable/1152368

Jan 19: CHOOSE COUNTRIES/TOPICS FOR RESEARCH PAPER.
Begin reading about your topic.

Week III, Tu Jan 24 and Th Jan 26
The Breakdown of Democracy in Chile and Argentina
Constable and Valenzuela, A Nation of Enemies: Chile under Pinochet, pp. 9-63

Week IV, Tu Jan 31 and Th Feb 2
The Military and Democratic Breakdown in Brazil
Stepan, The Military in Politics, pp. 123-212, on class website
Feb 2: THE MIDTERM WILL BE PASSED OUT

Week V, Tu Feb 7 and Th Feb 9
Feb 2: Review: Alternative Explanations for Economic Crisis and Military Intervention
Feb 4: MIDTERM DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS
Post your midterm to turn-it-in.com before coming to class.
Lecture: Sources of Popular Support for Authoritarianism

No sections this week. The TAs will hold extra office hours instead.
Week VI, Tu Feb 14 and Th Feb 16
Democratization and Democratic Consolidation
Feb 14: Vacs, "Authoritarian Breakdown and Redemocratization in Argentina," Skidmore, "Brazil's Slow Road to Democratization, 1974-1985," both on class website
Feb 14: RESEARCH DESIGN ASSIGNMENT WILL BE PASSED OUT.
Feb 16: 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 Feb 21 and Th Feb 23
Economic Liberalization and Its Consequences
Feb 21: 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
Feb 23: 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.
Feb 23: 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.

Week VIII, Tu Feb 28 and Th Mar 2
Consequences of Economic Liberalization: Corruption
Week IX, Tu Mar 7 and Th Mar 9
Mar 7: Economic Liberalization and 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

Mar 9: The Consequences of Neo-Populism in Venezuela
Carroll, *Comandante: Hugo Chávez’s Venezuela*, excerpts, on class website (Carroll is an Irish journalist who started out sympathetic to Chávez and became disenchanted.)
Ellner, Steve, “Hugo Chávez’s First Decade in Office: Breakthroughs and Shortcomings” 2010, JSTOR
“Everything you want to know about falling oil prices,” *Economist* 2015,

Week X, Tu Mar 14 and Th Mar 16
Mar 14: HARD COPY OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE, beginning of class. POST A COPY ON TURN-IT-IN.COM BEFORE CLASS.

Mar 14: STUDY QUESTIONS FOR FINAL EXAM PASSED OUT

Mar 14: The Current Situation in Venezuela

Mar 16: Review for Final

FINAL EXAM TUESDAY MAR 21, 11:30-2:30