Course Description:
This course seeks to develop a critical appreciation and understanding of contemporary political, economic, and social problems of Latin America. It explores the roots of the major political and economic changes that have swept the region during the last century. It analyzes political phenomena such as populism, revolution, authoritarianism, democracy, neo-populism, and neo-liberalism. Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding the causes and consequences of cycles of democratic and authoritarian rule.

Student Learning Outcome:
1- This course will provide students with the basic conceptual and theoretical tools for an informed and critical appreciation of Latin America;
2- It will promote students’ understanding of contemporary political, economic, and social structures of Latin America within a historical and theoretical context;
3- Students will analyze fundamental themes and case studies in the politics of Latin America during the last century;
4- By comparing specific case studies, students will be able to both explain general processes of change in the region and understand important differences that exist among these countries;
5- The course will provide students with an opportunity to enhance their research and analytical skills by producing a research paper.

Course Requirements:
Your performance in this course will be assessed in the following manner:
- Term Exams (2) 30%
- Topic Proposal/Bibliography 15%
- Term Paper 20%
- One Final (comprehensive) Exam 25%
- Class Participation 10%

Grading System:
The grading scale for this course is as follows:
- 100 – 90 = A
- 89 – 80 = B
- 79 – 70 = C
- 69 – 60 = D
- 59 and below = F

Research Paper (20% of your grade):
You will be required to write a research paper in which you should seek to explain and review a problem or challenge affecting one or more countries of Latin America. The paper needs to focus on the issue of
Two Term Exams (15% of your grade each) and One Final Exam (25% of your grade):
Exams will be a combination of both objective and essay questions. Questions will draw from assigned readings, lectures and any other material presented during class time (e.g. videos, guest speakers, etc.). The final exam will be comprehensive in scope and held on the officially scheduled exam day and place.

Class Participation (10% of your grade):
Classroom discussion plays an important part in this course, both as a component of your final grade and as a way of learning the material (and, hopefully, learning it in a way that has enduring value for you). I expect you to take an active role in the learning process. Be ready to discuss the readings, recent events, and carefully prepare your arguments before class meetings.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance to this course is mandatory. UNG attendance policy will be strictly enforced. At your fourth absence, I have the right to drop you from the class (before October 12 a “W” in your records; after October 12 it becomes a “WF”). I will call roll at the beginning of each class meeting. Arriving late to class or leaving early will count as an absence. Absences carry an additional penalty since absentees will not be able to participate in class and will miss lecture notes and arguments made during discussion.

Syllabus Changes:
I reserve the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, I will immediately notify you of such changes both by announcing it in class, emailing you, and posting both notification and nature of change(s) in D2L.

Policy Regarding Make-up Exams and Incomplete Grades:
Make up opportunities and incomplete grades will be given at my discretion and in accordance with UNG policy. You should make every effort to contact me before the time of the scheduled assignment (mid-term or final exam) to arrange a make-up. I will require proof of suitable and valid documentation (medical, legal, or administrative) to make up the missed assignment. My phone number and e-mail address are printed on this syllabus. I reserve the right to change the exam questions or format on any make up exam offered.

Disruptive Behavior Policy:
Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt the class or its learning activities are subject to sanctions under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which may be considered inappropriate in the classroom includes, but is not limited to, sleeping, coming in late, talking out of turn, inappropriate use of laptops or mobile devices, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be temporarily dismissed from the class by the instructor and will be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
University of North Georgia is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. Disability Services provides
accommodation memos for eligible students to give to their instructors. Students are responsible for making arrangements with instructors, and must give reasonable prior notice of the need for accommodation.

Contact Information for Disability Services:
§ Gainesville Campus: Carolyn Swindle, Assistant Director, carolyn.swindle@ung.edu, Dunlap-Mathis Building, Room 107, 678-717-3855
§ Dahlonega Campus: Thomas McCoy, Assistant Director, thomas.mccoy@ung.edu, Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313, 706-867-2782
§ Oconee Campus: Erin Williams, Assistant Director, erin.williams@ung.edu, Administration Building, Room 112, 706-310-6202
§ Cumming Instructional Site: Nicola Dovey, Director, nicola.dovey@ung.edu or Beth Bellamy, Test Facilitator, beth.bellamy@ung.edu 678-717-3855. (For on-site assistance, contact Rebecca Rose, Head Librarian, rebecca.rose@ung.edu, Library University Center 400, 470-239-3119.

Accessibility Statement:
If you need this document in another format, please email Andrew.eade@ung.edu or call 706-864-1628.

Academic Integrity Policy:
Student Code of Conduct: Please review the Student Code of Conduct located on the Dean of Students website.

Plagiarism and Turnitin.com: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or a failing grade for the course (“F”) depending on the severity of the offense and to be determined by the instructor.

Copyright: Both Federal and State laws forbid the unlawful duplication of copyrighted computer software or other reproductions of copyrighted material. In accordance with these policies, University of North Georgia expressly forbids the copying of such materials supplied by or used in the College. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted materials by a user may result in disciplinary action by the College under the Student Code of Conduct (Non-Academic Infractions--Prohibitions, Theft), and/or possible criminal action by the owner of the copyright.

Please review the Supplemental Syllabus for the following information:
1. Academic Exchange
2. Academic Success Plan Program
3. Class Evaluations
4. Course Grades and Withdrawal Process
5. Inclement Weather
6. Smoking Policy

Required Texts:
Hellinger, Daniel, *Comparative Politics of Latin America: Democracy at Last?* Routledge, 2011

Schedule of Assignments:
Aug 17 Course Overview and Presentation
Aug 19-26 Conceptualization of Democracy
•Hellinger (2011), Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-63
Sep 2-14  Historical Political Experience of Latin America  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapters 3 & 4, pp. 67-115

Sep 16-28  Populism and Democratic Breakdown in the Twentieth Century  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapters 5, 6, & 7, pp. 119-206

Sep 30  FIRST TERM EXAM

Oct 5-12  Democratic Transitions and Economic Crisis  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapters 8 & 9, pp. 207-258

Oct 14  TOPIC PROPOSAL & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Oct 14  Hegemonic Party Regimes  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapter 10, pp. 259-279

Oct 19-26  Revolutionary Regimes  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapters 11 & 12, pp. 283-338

Oct 28  SECOND TERM EXAM

Nov 2-11  Old and New Actors  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapters 13, 14 & 15, pp. 341-418

Nov 11  TERM PAPER DUE

Nov 16-18  Institutions  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapter 16, pp. 421-450

Nov 23-27  NO CLASSES – FALL BREAK & THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Nov 30-Dec 2  Human Rights and the Rule of Law  
• Hellinger (2011), Chapter 17, pp. 451-473

Friday, December 11 - FINAL EXAM  
(3:00 PM – 5:00 PM)
Term Paper (20% of your grade):
You will be required to write a research paper in which you should seek to explain and review a problem or challenge affecting democracy in one or more countries of Latin America. The paper needs to focus on the issue of democracy in Latin America. In your paper you will be expected to introduce the problem and explain its importance. Your paper should explicitly address existing theories or explanations for this problem.

Your grade will be determined by the quality of your presentation and discussion of the subject matter in the paper, and the strength of your argument. You must clearly establish a research topic and clearly explain how you intend to complete your assignment. You must sufficiently demonstrate that you have extensively researched the topic. You must clearly identify and fully exhaust your sources; I will assess your sources both on quality (academic, peer-reviewed journals, original government sources, etc.) and quantity (a minimum of 7 academic, peer-reviewed sources not including your textbooks). Your paper must be consistent, clear, logical, direct, and well-organized.

The paper must be at least 12 pages long (typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-space, page-numbered and one-inch margins) and is due on Wednesday, November 11 at the beginning of class and must be submitted in person. Only the introduction, main body, and the conclusion count toward the 12-page requirement; graphs and tables do not count toward the 12-page requirement. Short papers will be deducted one full grade point per page short. All borrowed, quoted, paraphrased, and unoriginal material must be cited appropriately (otherwise it is plagiarism and you will be punished for it). If you miss this assignment your grade will be zero (which is significantly worse than F). Your term paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com. No Late Papers will be accepted!

Turnitin.com Statement:
Your term paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com. Please read the following statement and familiarize yourself with the terms of this policy:

“Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.”

Class ID: 10336172
Password: democracy