Course Objective

The focus of the course would be on comprehending the basic features of the governments and political institutions in the region. This would be attempted by examining the political dynamics, political culture and the major actors (including the new social and political movements) in policymaking. The background knowledge, thus acquired, can be extrapolated to understand contemporary national, regional and international issues. Given the fact that there are a large number of countries within the region, the main emphasis would be on developments within Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Nicaragua and Cuba.

Course Content

Theme 1: Political Dynamics of Latin American Countries
- Historical view of political experiences of Latin American and Caribbean countries
- Political Approaches: Populism and Bureaucratic Authoritarianism
- Political Culture; Twentieth Century Movements in Thought and Politics
- Social Changes generating New Forces

Theme 2: Political Institutions in Policymaking
- Changing Power Structure and the Process of Decision-making
- Nature and Role of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary
- Process of Elections and their regulations
- Structure and Regulation of Political Parties

Theme 3: Actors in the Political System
• Church and the State
• Civil Society and New Social Movements
• Labour Movements and Labour Organisations
• Pandemic and Governance (with focus on federal countries)

**Theme 4: Foreign Policy Facets**

• Foreign Policy: Processes, Institutions and Domestic Inputs
• Inter-American Relations in the Cold War; Post-Cold War; and Post 9/11 Period
• World View of Latin America: OAS, UN, EU
• India-Latin America Relations

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, the students will be able to understand the unique political dynamics within Latin America. They would be able to build their understanding of the political spectrum within this region. The grasping of ideas and concepts related to governance would equip them to do a comparative study with India.

**Suggested Readings**

**Theme 1: Political Dynamics of Latin American Countries**


**Theme 2: Political Institutions in Policymaking**


Keogh, Dermot (1990), Church and Politics in Latin America, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.


Theme 3: Actors in the Political System


Pion-Berlin, D., and R. Martínez (2017), Soldiers, Politicians, and Civilians: Reforming Civil-
Military Relations in Democratic Latin America, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.


**Theme 4: Foreign Policy Facets**


Hartlyn, Jonathan, Lars Schoultz, and Augusto Varas, eds. (1992), The United States and Latin America in the 1990s: Beyond the Cold War, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.


Roett, Riordan and Guadalupe Paz, eds. (2003), Latin America in a Changing Global Environment, Boulder, Co: Lynne Rienner.

