This course explores **ethnicity**, **gender**, and **religion** in Latin American politics and society, and then tackles **revolution**, **democracy**, and **populism**.

Throughout, the region's history, geography, and culture are taken into account--for example, the **European and indigenous legacies** in Mexico and Perú, Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador; the **Asian presence** in Perú and Brazil; the **African contributions** to Cuba and Brazil; **female heads of state**, such as Nicaragua's Violeta Chamorro, Chile's Michelle Bachelet, Argentina's Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Costa Rica's Laura Chinchilla, and Brazil's Dilma Rousseff. **Liberation Theology** and the current Pope's worries about the **declining number of Catholics** in the region are also addressed. Today's multiparty democracy in Mexico, Hugo Chávez's legacy in Venezuela, and Cuba's international humanitarian aid and ideological aims **would not be possible without revolution(s) and populism**. They are **inevitably intertwined with ethnicity, gender, and religion**. This course aims to encourage a better understanding of Latin America and its relation to the rest of the world. Instead of a midterm and final exam, students focus (choose, research and write) on a concrete and specific country and subject. First years are welcome.