POLI 381 Politics of Mass Media in Latin America

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Michelle Bonner

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
Media are a key political actor in democracy and democratization. But, how? What are the limitations? How can the limitations be overcome? Latin America is an interesting region to look at in order to answer these questions. In this course we explore both the general relationship between media and democracy and some of the specific challenges faced in Latin America. This course builds on discussions of democracy and the media touched on in first and second year courses (particularly poli 103, 210 and 217). It also complements Poli 372 Latin American Politics. Theory is illustrated throughout the course with case examples from various countries around the world and throughout Latin America, with particular attention given to Argentina and Chile. In your final paper, you have the opportunity to apply some of what you learn to a Latin American country of your choice.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Understand the relationship between media and democracy
- Analyze how journalists produce news and contribute to democracy
- Compare the different ways media can be organized in democracies
- Explore the political role of media in democratization in Latin America
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion

Topics may include:
State control of media
Media and democracy
Media and the Market

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.