Course name: Challenges to Political Representation in Contemporary Chile
Course number: POLI 3101 STCH
Programs offering course: Open Campus Santiago Chile
Open Campus Track: International Relations and Political Science
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2019

Course Description

This class reviews and analyzes the paradox of contemporary Chile in its political representation. Coming from a regulated dictatorship to a transition to democracy, Chile faces a challenge to its political paradigm. The change of electoral system from a binominal one to a representative model will be applied for the first time in 2017. A political science perspective will be given to this change projecting future scenarios in the upcoming democratic elections. Students will study political forces from right to left, emerging social and anti-party movements, the influence of social media in politics and the shifts in class structures developed during the construction of a new democracy in the late 1980s.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course students will be able to:

1. articulate some of their own values and beliefs, and explain how these values and beliefs, as well as their experiences, have shaped their own views surrounding politics and international relations in general, and more specifically in Chile.

2. examine Chilean governmental institutions and analyze their influence within Chile and in Latin America.

3. compare power structures in the political systems in Chile by explaining the relationship among political parties, trade unions, media and the different branches of government (judicial, executive and legislative).

4. state, support and defend an oral argument about a contemporary political issue related to Chile’s role in Latin America and the world that is logical, concise, and clear to a target audience. Course Prerequisites

   Students should have completed a 2000 level course in political science prior to taking this course.

Methods of Instruction

● Lectures for the unit development of the class (2 sessions per unit).
Lecture based sessions, discussions and group analysis from bibliography (1 session per unit).

**Assessment and Final Grade**

List at least four methods of assessment in addition to attendance and participation, indicating the percent of final grade below totaling 100%:

1. Reading report nº1, units 1 and 2: 20%
2. Reading report nº 2, units 3 and 4: 20%
3. Reading report nº3, units 5 and 6: 20%
4. Participation: 20%
5. Final global essay: 20%

TOTAL: 100%

**Course Requirements**

**Reading Report:**
Reading reports will be take home evaluations. The students will have to answer a question given by the professor, according to class objectives to assess. These reports will consist of 3 written papers based on compulsory readings by each unit. Each report will have a maximum length of 2500 words.

**Final Global Essay:**
This is the final assessment of the class. The student will have to design a summary of all contents studied during the course. The format of these summary is essay writing and it will not exceed 4000 words.

**Participation:**
Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

**Weekly Schedule**
Week 1

Transition to Democracy in Chile as an historical account of the main characteristics of the contemporary political turning point called the transition to democracy from military dictatorship in Chile that took place from 1988 to 1991.

Readings:


Session 3. Site Visit: "Museo de la Memoria". Human Rights Museum. (see description in site visit description section)

Week 2

UNIT 2: “Coalition of Parties for Democracy”

In this unit the course will provide an account of broad features of the main political actors of the Chilean system post dictatorship: “Coalition of Parties for Democracy”. Readings:


**Week 3: Submit Report I**

**UNIT 3: Chilean Economic Development Model**
One of the most outstanding (and criticized) elements of the democratic Chile from 1990 is its socioeconomic model of development. In that sense, this unit shows particular aspects of this model and challenges observed in the “Chilean Model”.


**Session 9. Site Visit: Memorial Site Villa Grimaldi. (see description in site visit description section)**

**Week 4**

**UNIT 4: The System of Political Parties in Chile**

The Democratic Chilean system has been recognized by its stability, due to the "pacific" transition to democracy. However, it is necessary to recognize that this is a result of aspects like the binominal electoral system and the constitutional ties. In that sense this unit aims at showing students those elements that shaped the Chilean Democracy post dictatorship. Readings:


**Week 5: Submit report II**

**UNIT 5: Electoral highlights in Chile**

Traditionally elections are considered assessment events about the performance of ruling politicians. Taking this into account, this course will concentrate on the challenges and political debates during different elections. Readings:


UNIT 6: Social and Political Challenges in Chile

It is said that from the year 2006 Chile has "woken up". Social movements that from the same year and specially during 2011 have exposed a series of issues not solved in the society. In that sense, this unit aims at providing an account of conflicts that have had a diverse way of expression, which has the students as main characters.

Readings:


Readings:

Site visit description:

One the main topics in the Chilean political processes is the human rights violations during the military dictatorship (1973-1990). During this period the DINA, The National Intelligence Agency, established a policy of "state terrorism" by eliminating and persecuting those opposed to the ruling power.

As a result the dictatorship period in Chile resulted in 3000 disappeared and detained people, 200,000 tortured and imprisoned; and an undetermined number of people who were exiled. For that reason, once the country returned to a state of democracy, in 1990, of the main political duties was not only finding compensation to victims, but also investigating the truth and justice.

This process was not an easy change. The traumatic experience of human rights violations meant a political conflict. All of this due to the conditions in which the transition to democracy was developed.
Therefore, the site visits listed have three objectives:

1. To learn the historical and political account that has derived from the Chilean State in the recent history.
2. To visit relevant sites that operated as torture centers in order to understand the memory policies designed by social organizations.
3. To comprehend the relation between the recent past and Chilean political processes related to "the human rights issue" as main theme.

**Site visit 1: Museo de la Memoria y Derechos Humanos /Human Rights Museum**
Important Museum with well done account of political, historical and social events during the dictatorship period in Chile. Multimedia resources, letters, pictures and other sources are displayed in this Museum to be used by the visitors.

**Site Visit 2: Lugar de Memoria. Villa Grimaldi /Memorial site Villa Grimaldi Park**
Villa Grimaldi is considered the most important of DINA’s (Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional, the Chilean secret police) many complexes that were used for the interrogation and torture of political prisoners during the governance of Augusto Pinochet. It is located in Peñalolén, on the outskirts of Santiago, and was in operation from mid-1974 to mid-1978. About 4,500 detainees were brought to Villa Grimaldi during this time, at least 240 of whom "disappeared" or were killed by DINA. Therefore, visiting a place like this helps to understand the political history of, a still, divided country, it gives students different perspective to analyze this episode in Chile’s history and therefore comprehend some of the social side effects analyzed in the course.

**Site Visit 3: Lugar de Memoria. Londres 38/ Memorial site Londres 38**
Londres 38 - A house in Santiago de Chile at Londres street No. 38, originally housing an office of the Socialist Party, but seized by the Pinochet junta and used in 1973/74 as one of the clandestine detention and torture centers by the infamous DINA secret police (= Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional). From 2005 the site was turned into a memorial.

**Online Resources**

Videos:
Chile se Moviliza: Estudiantes (Subtítulos en inglés) Disponible en Youtube.
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6yVNjL8gFE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6yVNjL8gFE)

Chile se Moviliza: Aysen. (Subtítulos en inglés) Disponible en Youtube.
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR0LpglwX_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QR0LpglwX_o)