This course on Modern Latin America is designed to introduce you to contemporary Latin American life, and to show you how the historical development of the region has shaped today's Latin America. Inevitably for a region as large (more than 20 countries) and diverse as Latin America, covering a period of 2 centuries, we cannot address every significant trend and occurrence in every country. We will focus our attention on how people have lived their lives in Latin America, paying attention to their personal lives as well as the effects of large-scale political, economic and cultural circumstances on the opportunities and constraints for Latin Americans.

Class sessions will include lectures, discussion sessions, videos, and music. The readings are from a wide selection of books. In addition to the text (Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People*), readings include novels, personal accounts, journalistic descriptions, and scholarly articles. The assigned readings and class sessions are complementary; they do not repeat each other. So, to follow the lectures, it will be necessary for you to stay current on the readings.