DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS FASCINATING AND RELEVANT COURSE!

In the second half of the twentieth century, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Brazil transitioned from semi-democratic regimes to democracy. Reforms included economic neo-liberal policies and abandoning of state-sponsored social programs. In these countries, social disparities deepened and uneven distribution of wealth increased. Political restructuring did not up-root long-standing governmental, political, and social maladies of corruption and marginalization for the many. New social and political actors emerged demanding change and active civic participation. In all, the transition is ongoing and unfulfilled.

In this course, you will study the democratization process in each of these countries and compare the similarities and differences. You will review the historical background of nation-building after independence, the long battles between liberals and conservatives, dependence on monoculture, church-state relations, and the cycles of boom and bust, as it connects to the world markets. The class will provide you with tools to address questions of modernization, development vs. under-development, corporatism, militarism, populism, and other isms beleaguering these countries as members of the Latin American community.

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