

Name: _____

**LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
EXAMINATION #3, LONG-ESSAY COMPONENT**

Half of your final exam grade will be earned with your response to the prompt below. Devote at least an hour of our final exam period to writing this part of the test.

Please do not treat the prompt's several questions as a series of unrelated short answer response items, but instead, develop a nuanced and well-defended essay that responds to each question as part of a larger argument.

You will have the full exam period to take a test that has been designed to be completed in two hours, **so please put some effort into making your handwriting legible.** Your writing will be graded using the same criteria that I have used for short-answer questions on your other exams, with the caveats that your organization and use of evidence should reflect the fact that you received this prompt several days in advance. As long as I easily understand and read what you are writing, do not worry about spelling modest grammar issues. You also do not need to quote material or provide specific citations; however, you should reference readings and authors when you can. Make sure to provide evidence that you have carefully reviewed course assignments, including your non-text readings.

To assist you in focusing your writing, you may use the essay outline that you have prepared in advance provided that you adhere to the following rules:

- *Your essay's preparatory notes **must be in outline form** and address only the essay prompt listed below. You may also list any specific facts or evidence you want to make sure to stress in your essay.*
- *Your preparatory notes must be limited to one side of a single three-by-five-inch notecard or a piece of paper of this same size. Write/type your information at any size you wish.*
- *No other materials whatsoever are to be used during the exam, and you must turn in your notecard with your completed exam.*
- *Obviously, you need to prepare your own notecard and outlined response to the prompt. Your notecard should be signed with your name, which will be your affirmation that you have adhered to this requirement.*

Essay prompt:

For half of a millennium after the Conquest, most Latin Americans lived without basic democratic freedoms or rights and with little economic security. Why?

Is there any evidence to suggest that useful models for prosperity and democratization are emerging in the region that will make the 21st century brighter and more secure for most Latin Americans? In your response to this part of the prompt, consider some of the ways that the answer to this question varies according to where a given Latin American lives.

What obstacles—if any— still stand in the way of a better future in the region for everyday people? In your response to this part of the prompt, consider some of the ways that the answer to this question varies according to where a given Latin American lives.

And finally, why should someone living in the United States care about any of these questions?