

History 424: Colonial Latin America
University of Montevallo
Dr. John R. Bawden
Fall 2015

Meets: TR 02:00-03:15 UMOM 220

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Office Hours: MW 930-12, M 1-3, UM on Main 220 (or by appointment)

Course Credit: 3 hours

Pre-requisites: History 101 & 102

Course Overview

This course examines the Americas before European conquest, the nature of Spanish and Portuguese colonialism, the impact of colonialism on the American environment, the nature of chattel slavery, the formation of multiracial and multi-ethnic societies, systems of social stratification, the collapse of colonial empires and establishment of independent republics after 1808. Special attention will be paid to factors that still affect contemporary Latin America.

Course objectives

1. Provide students with a broad outline of events, ideas, and trends in the history of colonial Latin America, from the pre-Columbian era to the establishment of independent republics after 1808.
2. Introduce students to the major themes in colonial Latin American history with respect to politics, economy, gender, society, and culture.
3. Enable students to compare and contrast Spanish and Portuguese America with a focus on the formation of a colonial society with unique cultural characteristics.
4. Help students appreciate ambiguity in historical argument and presentation.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate geographic literacy by taking a map quiz and by comparing the historical development of Latin America's various regions on exams and in discussion.
2. Students will demonstrate effective writing and critical thinking skills as they undertake research on a subject in the field of colonial Latin American history.
3. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills during class discussions, interpreting primary sources and evaluating the central arguments of secondary sources.

E-Reserves (available on canvas)

Charles Mann, "The Artificial Wilderness" in *1491*

Charles Mann, "Agro-Industrial Complex" in *1493*

Bernabé Cobo, *History of the Inca Empire*

"Writing and Record-Keeping in the Ancient Americas" in *Readings on Latin America and its People* (volume I)

Inga Clendinnen, "Explorers" in *Ambivalent Conquests*

Jared Diamond, "Collision at Cajamarca" in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

Bartolomé de las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

Robert Patch, "Indians and the Political Economy of Colonial Central America"

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "You Men" and "Disillusionment"

"Natural Disasters, Religion, and the Political Order" in *Readings on Latin America and its People*

"The Enlightenment Comes to Latin America" in *Readings on Latin America and its People*

Optional Textbook

Cheryl E. Martin, and Mark Wasserman, *Latin America and Its People*, 3rd Edition, Volume I to 1830.

Course Assessment

Participation: 15%

Journal: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Research paper: 25%

Final exam: 20%

The midterm and final exam will consist of short identifications and essay. The week prior to each exam I will provide a study guide with key terms to know and likely themes for the essay questions.

Grading

A: 100-90% **B:** 89-80% **C:** 79-70% **D:** 69-60% **F:** 59-0%

Graduate Level

Students taking History 524 course should speak with me about an additional assignment that will be assessed along with all other requirements that appear in the syllabus.

ES Minor

Environmental Studies minors who wish to receive credit for this course must write their research paper on some aspect of environmental history during colonial Latin America.

Journal

On five occasions you will write a short response to a question I provide about assigned reading materials. All of the readings are located under 'Assignments' on Canvas. A separate document provides the prompt for each journal entry. Journal assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Participation

Thursdays I take attendance and keep track of participation while we discuss primary sources, writing assignments, film, and other course materials. Your participation grade is a composite of your attendance on Thursday and the quality of your participation on those days.

Research Paper

You will write a 6-8 page research paper using **at least** two primary sources (sources from the time period under study) and **at least** two scholarly sources (books or articles written by academics in the last fifty years). You may write about any subject related to the history of colonial Latin America, but it is important to narrow the focus to a specific time, place, and theme (warfare, gender, religion, art, native peoples, slavery, economy, etc). It is acceptable to choose a topic on pre-conquest Iberia or Pre-Columbian America as it relates to colonial Latin America. The introductory paragraphs of your paper must pose a research question and present a succinct thesis answering that question. The more specific your question, the more easily you can focus on your topic and develop a good thesis. To meet the requirement of two secondary sources and two primary sources students will want to consult with me by email or during my office hours.

Apart from our readings, another place to find primary sources is:

<http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/7.3/gilbert.html>

Students will submit a 1-2 pages of their research paper on **November 11**. The first page should introduce the topic, research question, and propose a thesis. Additionally, students will indicate which primary and secondary sources they intend to use for the assignment. During class time student will briefly discuss their research, sources, and why they selected the topic. After student presentations there will be an in-class draft workshop. Each student will receive feedback from another student. The research paper is due on the last day of class. It must be properly footnoted, numbered, double-spaced, with a 12 point font, and 1' margins and have a title that reflects the subject of the paper and your argument.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

To claim as one's own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the following: using the exact words of another person's work/writing without acknowledgement of your source through the use of quotation marks and correct citation/documentation; rephrasing a passage of another writer without giving proper credit; using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement; using a piece of writing for one course that was already used in a previous course (or in courses in which you are simultaneously enrolled) without express permission from both instructors to do so; presenting fabricated or falsified citations or materials. Please consult with me if you are unsure about how to cite sources. Cheating on exams is also an affront to the principle of academic honesty. At the very least, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e. a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. A plagiarist/cheater is also subject to failure in the course and/or appearance before the Justice Council.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

8/25 Introduction
8/27 The Americas before Columbus

Journal #1 – Mann, “The Artificial Wilderness” and “Agro-Industrial Complex” - due 8/27

WEEK 2

9/1 Inca Empire
9/3 Aztec Empire

Thursday fishbowl discussion: “Writing and Record-Keeping in the Ancient Americas” and Bernabé Cobo, *History of the Inca Empire*

WEEK 3

9/8 Spain and Portugal before 1492
9/10 First Encounters

Journal #2 – Clendinnen, “Explorers” in *Ambivalent Conquests* due 9/10

WEEK 4

9/15 The Spanish Conquest
9/17 The Spanish Conquest

Thursday fishbowl discussion: Diamond, “Collision at Cajamarca”

Watch: Excerpts from *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

WEEK 5

9/22 Hispanic Peru
9/24 Spiritual Conquest

Watch: Excerpts from *La Otra Conquista*

WEEK 6

9/29 Imperial Debates
10/1 Spanish Government

Thursday fishbowl discussion: Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*

WEEK 7

10/6 The Economy
10/8 Indians and Colonialism

Journal #3 – Patch, “Indians and the Political Economy of Colonial Central America” due 10/8

WEEK 8

10/13 Brazil
10/15 **MIDTERM**

WEEK 9

10/20 Multiethnic Societies
10/22 Africans in the Americas

Journal #4 – “Slavery in Colonial Brazil” due 10/22

WEEK 10

10/27 Daily Life, Entertainment, Etiquette
10/29 Women in Latin America

Thursday fishbowl discussion: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, “You Men” and “Disillusionment”

Watch: excerpts from *Yo, La Peor de Todas*

WEEK 11

11/3 Order and Defiance
11/5 Living on the Fringes of Empire
Watch: *The Mission*

WEEK 12

11/10 Imperial Decay and Reform
11/12 Students Research Presentations, Draft Workshop
Research paper introduction due 11/12

WEEK 13

11/17 18th Century Spanish America
11/19 Natural Disasters
Journal #5 - "Natural Disasters, Religion, and the Political Order" due 11/19

WEEK 14

11/24 The Enlightenment
11/26 HOLIDAY
Thursday fishbowl discussion: "The Enlightenment Comes to Latin America"

WEEK 15

12/1 The Crisis of 1808
12/3 The Colonial Legacy
Research Paper due 12/3

Final Exam on December 10, from 1030 to 1230