

History 424: Colonial Latin America
University of Montevallo
Dr. John R. Bawden
Fall 2020

Meets: R 5-7:30 UMOM 309

Contact: jbwalden@montevallo.edu (205) 665-6179

Office Hours: MW 9-12, 1-3, UMOM 303 (or by appointment)

Course Credit: 3 hours

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.
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 Spanish and Portuguese America.
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 through discussion of Latin America's various regions.
2. Students will demonstrate effective writing and critical thinking skills as they conduct research on a topic in colonial Latin American history.
3. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills during class discussions, interpreting primary sources and evaluating the arguments of secondary sources.

Required Textbook

Charles F. Walker, *Tupac Amaru Rebellion*
ISBN-13: 978-0674659995

E-Reserves (available on canvas)

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

Bernabé Cobo, *History of the Inca Empire*

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

William D. and Carla Rahn Phillips, "Spain in the Fifteenth Century"

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*

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*

Distance Education Policy

Students taking History 424 away from campus for health reasons (Covid-19, general health concerns) will inform me of that decision and keep up with the lectures (posted on canvas). Distance education students must submit a short paragraph about any assigned reading that is not a journal assignment. At the end of the semester, these paragraphs will constitute your participation grade. They are due before the corresponding class discussion as I may read them out loud to your classmates. Your map quiz and midterm will be given online.

Optional Textbook

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

Course Assessment

Map Quiz: 5%

Participation: 20%

Journal Writing Assignments: 20%

Midterm: 15%

Final quiz: 15%

Research paper: 20%

Grading

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

Course Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” is **October 30**.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right, after written announcement, to change course requirements or the method of assessment.

Graduate Level

Students taking History 524 will write a longer research paper (8-10 pages). Additionally, one section of your research paper must demonstrate knowledge of scholarly debates in Colonial Latin American history as they relate to your topic.

Environmental Studies

Students who wish to receive ES credit for this course must write their research paper on some aspect of environmental history.

Journal

On four occasions you will respond in writing to a question I provide about assigned reading materials. A separate document provides the prompt for each journal entry. Journal assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Participation

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 and the quality of your participation.

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-Colombian 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.

Students will submit the first page of their research paper in class (see syllabus). 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, students 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 must be properly foot-noted, 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.

ADA Statement

The University of Montevallo provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact [Disability Support Services](#) (located in Main Central [Lower Level], rear entrance; 665-6250). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively. Modified attendance accommodations are determined via an interactive process between faculty and the DSS office.

ForUM Email

You are responsible for monitoring and managing your account regularly, even during breaks. You are responsible for all announcements, requests, and/or sensitive information delivered to your UM e-mail account, including information related to this course. You may electronically forward your UM e-mail to another e-mail address (e.g., @gmail.com, @hotmail.com), but at your own risk. The University is not responsible for the handling of forwarded e-mail. Having e-mail forwarded does not absolve you from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to your official UM e-mail address. If you have any questions regarding or problems with your UM email account, you should contact the Solution Center (205-665-6512). The Solution Center is available Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WEEK 1 – 8/27

Course Introduction

The Americas before Columbus

Read: Mann, “The Artificial Wilderness”

WEEK 2 – 9/3

Aztec & Inca Empires

Journal #1 – Cobo, “History of the Inca Empire” and “Writing and Record-Keeping in the Ancient Americas” due

Handout: Aztec tribute records

WEEK 3 – 9/10

Spain and Portugal before 1492

Read: William D. and Carla Rahn Phillips, “Spain in the Fifteenth Century” (e-reserve)

WEEK 4 – 9/17

First Encounters in the Caribbean

The Spanish Conquest of Mexico

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

WEEK 5 – 9/24

The Spanish Conquest of Peru

The Structure of Spanish Government

Read: Diamond, “Collision at Cajamarca” (e-reserve)

Map Quiz

WEEK 6 – 10/1

Imperial Debates and Policy

Spiritual Conquest

Read: Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (e-reserve)

Watch: Excerpts from *The Mission*

WEEK 7 – 10/8

Indians and Colonialism
The Structure of Spanish Government
Discuss: Research paper topics and source material

WEEK 8 – 10/15

Midterm
Colonial Brazil

WEEK 9 – 10/22

Multiethnic Societies
Africans in the Americas
Journal #3 – “Slavery in Colonial Brazil” due

WEEK 10 – 10/29

Daily Life, Entertainment, Etiquette
Women in Latin America
Read: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, “You Men” and “Disillusionment”
Watch: excerpts from *Yo, La Peor de Todas*

WEEK 11 – 11/5

Order and Defiance
Living on the Fringes of Empire
Research paper introduction due
Read: Charles F. Walker, Tupac Amaru Rebellion, pgs. 1-39

WEEK 12 – 11/12

Imperial Decay and Reform
Student presentations on research progress
Discuss: “The Enlightenment Comes to Latin America”
Read: Charles F. Walker, Tupac Amaru Rebellion, pgs. 40-129

WEEK 13 – 11/19

18th Century Spanish America
Natural Disasters
Journal #4 – Walker, Tupac Amaru Rebellion due

WEEK 14 – 11/26

THANKSGIVING

WEEK 15 – 12/3

The Crisis of 1808
The Colonial Legacy
Final quiz

Research papers due on Thursday, December 10 at 830 pm