

Latin American Transformations

A survey of colonial Latin American history

HILA (History of Latin America) 100, Fall, 2010
Mon, Wed, Fri 2:00-2:50 p.m., Peterson Hall 102
Instructor: Chris Wisniewski

Office hours: Mon 12:30-1:30 p.m. & Tue 2:30-3:30 p.m., and by appointment, H&SS 6051
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Unfortunately, voice messages cannot be left on my office phone and I will only answer the phone during office hours when I am not otherwise occupied with a student. Therefore, please contact me via e-mail for all non-urgent matters. And I ask a favor: whenever e-mailing me, please prefix your message's subject line with "HILA100."



Scope

HILA 100 is a survey lecture course covering the early period of Latin American history, from 1492 to about 1825. In addition to the colonial period proper, we'll also cover salient aspects of European (especially Iberian) and American (indigenous) societies before Columbus's or others' famous first encounters, and we'll also briefly cover the process of independence. The course is part of an entire year-long sequence surveying the history of Latin America up to the present, and is normally followed by HILA 101 and HILA 102.

Format

Three hours of lecture per week; discussion as appropriate; a film. The dates on the calendar, especially regarding the lecture topics, are only approximate.

Requirements

Mid-term exam ☞ Essay and short answer, in class, 50 minutes long; 10% of grade.

Final exam ☞ Essay and short answer, in class, 2-3 hours in length; 45% of grade.

Research paper ☞ A historical research-based essay of at least ten (10) double-spaced pages in length (not counting its required cover/title page and bibliography); 45% of grade.

NOTES: Each of the above course requirements must be satisfied in order to receive a passing grade, even if the course is taken with the pass/no pass option. The topic of the research paper is to be of your choosing provided that it concerns itself with the geographical and temporal limits of the course. Other important conditions such as topic approval, minimum sources and their type, citation style, formatting, etc. apply to the research paper requirement. See Research Paper Guide, provided separately, for details.

Required and Suggested Readings

Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahuatl Views of the Conquest of Mexico, Edited with an Introduction by Stuart B. Schwartz

The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492, Alfred W. Crosby Jr, Forward by J. R. McNeill (30th Anniversary Edition)

Imperial Subjects: Race and Identity in Colonial Latin America, Andrew B. Fisher and Matthew D. O'Hara, editors, with a forward by Irene Silverblatt

Americanos: Latin America's Struggle for Independence, John Charles Chasteen

All of the above texts are required and are available at the UCSD Bookstore in the Price Center, and all have been placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences (Geisel) Library for 3-hour loan. This is a substantial amount of reading, but is by no means excessive. A fifth text has not been assigned because you are expected to do considerable reading for your research paper.

In addition to the required readings, three Latin American history survey books have been placed on reserve which can fill in lots of gaps and, moreover, provide you with an excellent starting place for rapidly acquiring generalized, basic knowledge of your chosen research topic and perhaps even help you connect your topic to other important and useful contexts:

Early Latin America: A History of Colonial Spanish America and Brazil, James Lockhart and Stuart B. Schwartz

Colonial Latin America, Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson

A History of Latin America to 1825, Peter Bakewell in collaboration with Jacqueline Holler

There are also some interesting on-line collections of sources regarding Latin America's colonial period, and some of these sites include lists of additional readings, maps, chronologies, and the like, which you might peruse for your own interest and/or use to supplement the assigned readings. Three of these are:

<http://faculty.smu.edu/bakewell/bakewell/thinksheet.html>,
<http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/latinam.htm>, and
<http://www.historians.org/tl/lessonplans/ca/fitch/index.htm>;

For a collection of links to various Latin America-related sites, see
<http://www.skidmore.edu/~jdym/Links-Colonial.htm>.

Electronic Access to Course Documents

Duplicate copies of the course syllabus and other handouts can be obtained, and the class's meeting, mid-term, and final schedule can be viewed, by visiting the course's on-line "WebCT" page, which can be accessed either by visiting the university's main WebCT page at <http://webct.ucsd.edu> (after which you must select the appropriate course link) or by visiting the course page directly at <https://webctweb.ucsd.edu/webct/logon/3866322005001>. In either case, you will be required to login to the system using your UCSD single Sign-On ID and its associated password.

Important Policies

- 1) No "incompletes" will be given nor "make-up" exams offered except for compelling personal/medical reasons, and only then if they are properly documented. Specialized exemptions (disability, sports, etc), must be communicated to me as soon as they are known and accompanied, where necessary, by the appropriate forms.
- 2) Late papers will be penalized 2% per day.
- 3) Exams must be taken in bluebooks, which you must provide approximately early, be cleared, and which will be made available to you at the exam itself.
- 4) Roll will not be taken, but regular class attendance is *strongly* recommended; because there is no central textbook as such assigned, the lectures form the spine of the course and missing lectures will seriously impair not only your understanding of the material, but also your ability to do well on the exams.
- 5) It is often the case that if a question is worth asking via e-mail, it's probably worth asking during or immediately after class, or during office hours.



Nota Bene

Good history — the best history — is created not only out of careful, quiet, and solitary work (critical reading, fact checking, and writing, for example). As important as those tasks are, lively discussion, constructive debate, and even reasoned dissent are important also. Though this is principally a lecture class, you are encouraged to ask questions, contribute ideas, share knowledge, and disagree when reason and evidence is on your side.

Tentative Calendar with Readings and Lecture Topics

<i>Day & Date</i>	<i>Topic/Activity/Notes</i>
Fri, 24 Sep	Introduction; BEGIN READING SCHWARTZ, MOVE ON TO CROSBY WHEN DONE WITH SCHWARTZ
<i>Iberian and New World background</i>	
WEEK 1	
Mon, 27 Sep	Iberian background
Wed, 29 Sep	Iberian background, cont.
Fri, 1 Oct	Native American cultures
WEEK 2	
Mon, 4 Oct	Native American cultures, cont.
Wed, 6 Oct	The first encounter(s) between Europeans and Americans; in-class film: "First Contact."
Fri, 8 Oct	DISCUSS FILM; European expansion and New World conquests
<i>The First generations of the conquest</i>	
WEEK 3	
Mon, 11 Oct	European expansion and New World conquests, cont.; DISCUSS SCHWARTZ
Wed, 13 Oct	Trans-Atlantic perceptions;
Fri, 15 Oct	Demographic collapse; DISCUSS CROSBY; RESEARCH PROJECT PRÉCIS DUE
WEEK 4	
Mon, 18 Oct	Early governing mechanisms; colonial adjustments to about 1600;
Wed, 20 Oct	Sugar, slavery, and society in Brazil
Fri, 22 Oct	Early Brazil, cont.
<i>The Middle Period</i>	
WEEK 5	
Mon, 25 Oct	Trade and travel
Wed, 27 Oct	Mining, especially silver, and silver's affect in Europe and elsewhere
Fri, 29 Oct	MID-TERM EXAM, IN CLASS
WEEK 6	
Mon, 1 Nov	Agriculture, the great estate, rural life
Wed, 3 Nov	Social stratification, race mixture
Fri, 5 Nov	Race mixture, cont.; DISCUSS FISHER & O'HARA
WEEK 7	
Mon, 8 Nov	Catch-up day
Wed, 3 Nov	The colonial church,
Fri, 5 Nov	The colonial church, cont.; other aspects of colonial culture

WEEK 8

Mon, 8 Nov Brazil during the eighteenth century

The crown and the colonies grow restless

Wed, 10 Nov Enlightenment; political and governmental adjustments

Fri, 12 Nov New political realities at home and abroad

WEEK 9

Mon, Nov 22 New political realities at home and abroad, cont.

Wed, Nov 24 Rebellion

Fri, Nov 26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; NO CLASS

WEEK 10

Mon, 29 Nov Independence; DISCUSS CHASTEEN

Wed, 1 Dec Catch-up day

Fri, 3 Dec Final review; RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

FINAL EXAM

Wed, 8 Dec 3:00p-6:00p, Peterson 102 — subject to confirmation by the registrar