

HILA 168/268  
Monday, 2-4:50 p.m., HSS 4025  
Winter, 2006

THE HISTORICAL LITERATURE OF COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA:  
AN INTRODUCTION

Instructor: Dr. Eric Van Young

Office hours: Monday, 11:30 a.m-1:30 p.m., and by appointment; HSS 5073

Contact: office-x46891 (direct); x41996 (message); e-mail: evanyoung@ucsd.edu

N.B.: There is no reading assigned in advance of the first seminar meeting (Monday, 9 January) since the instructor was unsure who or how many would be in the seminar, or how to get in touch with seminar members. Normally there would be a series of student essay/oral presentations during the last week or even two of the quarter, but since the first weekly meeting has no reading and there are two university holidays falling on Mondays, leaving only seven actual seminar meetings, there will be no student presentations of essays.

Course requirements: The major written work of the seminar will be a historiographical essay of at least 20 pages in length (it may be longer, even a lot longer, but should not be shorter) surveying one of the themes in the seminar reading list, in the extensive supplementary bibliography, or another theme of equivalent breadth of the student's choice; the instructor should be consulted **early** regarding choice of theme and approach. An alternative approach would be to select a major colonialist scholar (Brazil and the Caribbean are also allowable here) and examine her/his work in depth. This essay will account for about 90% of the final grade, and is due **without fail** on Friday of exam week, 24 March 2006. No incompletes will be assigned except for medical or other compelling personal reasons.

A full and active participation in seminar discussions is expected of all students; a "fudge factor" for this will be included in the final grade, amounting to about 10%. This participation will include leading at least one discussion in the seminar. The lead presentation should consist of a deep analysis of the book being read, of at least 15-20 minutes in length, and then actually leading the ensuing discussion (with instructor's interventions). Speculation is okay here once the substance has been addressed; rambling and lots of personal opinion are not. There will be more specific indications in seminar about what is expected in these presentations. Seminar members other than the presenter should bring to class some observations on the material under discussion, rather than sit passively by waiting for something interesting to turn up.

**N.B.:** This is a combined graduate seminar/undergraduate colloquium. Undergraduate students are expected to keep up with the reading, participate in the discussions, and submit a final essay just the same as graduate students. Undergraduate students are, of course, welcome to talk with the

instructor at any time about the class work.

For the week in which there is no common reading of a book—week 6, Monday, 13 February, the theme rural society--seminar members are expected to distribute **ahead of time** to the other seminar members a short gloss of the book they have chosen to read that week, no more than 2-3 pages in length. Each seminar member will then be responsible for the presentation of the book they have chosen to read, consisting of a 15/20-minute oral presentation. These papers should summarize the substantive content of the book, make some mention of methodological and theoretical approaches, and if possible indicate where the book stands in relation to the colonial historiography. Given the limited holdings of the Central Library and heavy use by undergraduates for research papers, it is **strongly** advised that you pick your books out for this week well ahead of time and check them out of the library. There are two meeting days when we will not be able to meet because of university holidays, 16 January and 20 February. There will nonetheless be readings assigned for those days, which students are expected to do on their own. If we can all agree on a day later in the week to meet for discussion, we will do so; if not, on the meetings following the holidays (23 January and 27 February) we will double-up on the discussions in the seminars, talking about two books each time.

You will notice from the reading schedule of the seminar that for some of the meetings there is an article or articles TBA (to be announced), to be read in conjunction with the book of the week. For some weeks the instructor will supply multiple copies of the selected articles; these will be placed in a box in the graduate lounge. The seminar members should coordinate use of these amongst themselves and may of course make copies for their own use. For the remaining weekly meetings, one member of the seminar will volunteer well ahead of that week's meeting to identify a significant article bearing on the week's theme--a review essay, a historiographical or methodological article, a "think piece" by an established scholar, but in *no case* a monographic study--and make it available to the other seminar members in the usual fashion; more details on this in seminar.

Readings: Eight of the books--CaZizares-Esguerra, Lockhart, Viqueira-Albán, Premo, Stein and Stein, Voekel, Van Young, and Thomson--are available for purchase at Groundwork Books and will also be placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library. My advice is that students purchase all of these unless they feel purchase of the books presents an undue financial drain on them. N.B.: I know the list leans too heavily toward Mexico; there are number of reasons for this, which we can discuss in the seminar.

A general bibliography on colonial Latin America, compiled by the instructor, will be made available to all students. This list makes no claim to completeness, concentrates rather heavily on the Anglophone literature (as one graduate student pointed out rather uncharitably some years ago), tends to emphasize Mexico more than some other areas, and has only been sporadically updated over the years, most recently in 1999. Still, at least it is a starting point for the development of a reading list for the colonial Latin America minor field examination for non-colonialists among the graduate students, will help those concentrating in the colonial period, as well, and will perhaps

serve to give some ideas for the final essay to undergraduates and non-Latin American history graduate students.

Meeting of    Reading/discussion topics/calendar

9 January    **Introduction**; no reading assigned (short session)

16 January    No seminar meeting–Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday holiday

**Colonial historiography and European perception**

Jorge CaZizares-Esguerra, *How to Write the History of the New World*

Article TBA

23 January    **Ethnohistory**

James Lockhart, *The Nahuas After the Conquest*

Article by Matthew Restall from *Latin American Research Review* on native-language-based ethnohistory

30 January    **“Popular culture” and cultural history more generally**

Juan Pedro Viqueira Albán, *Propriety and Permissiveness in Bourbon Mexico*

Van Young and Haber articles from *HAHR* issue on “The New Cultural History,”

plus one other article from the same number of the *HAHR*; and Alan Knight’s article on NCH from *LARR*

6 February    **Gender, sexuality, the family**

Bianca Premo, *Children of the Father King: Youth, Authority, and Legal Minority in Colonial Lima*

13 February    **Rural society**

Book of the students choice, article TBA; short papers due before seminar meeting and distributed to all seminar members

20 February    No seminar meeting–Presidents’ Day holiday

**The colonial economy**

Stanley J. Stein and Barbara H. Stein, *Silver, Trade, and War: Spain and America in the Making of Early Modern Europe*; possibly article TBA

27 February    **Religious sensibility**

Pamela Voekel, *Alone Before God: The Religious Origins of Modernity in Mexico*; possibly article TBA

6 March    **Forms of resistance and rebellion**

Eric Van Young, *The Other Rebellion: Popular Violence, Ideology, and the Mexican Struggle for Independence, 1810-1821*

Article by Van Young, “The Cuautla Lazarus”

- 13 March    **Forms of resistance and rebellion, continued**  
Sinclair Thomson, *We Alone Will Rule: Native Andean Politics in the Age of Insurgency*; closing discussion
- 24 March    Papers due by 5 p.m.