

HIGR 247A  
Winter, 2009  
Wednesday, 10 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

Social and Cultural History of Latin America, ca. 1492—ca. 1850

**Instructor:** Eric Van Young, Department of History

Phone: office—(858) 534-6891; home—(619) 543-0711; e-mail: [evanyoung@ucsd.edu](mailto:evanyoung@ucsd.edu)

**Scope and format of course:**

This is the first quarter of a two-quarter graduate research seminar on the social and cultural history (as reflected in the reading list, the distinction between these two *genres* of history is left purposely vague, and political and economic history are welcome) of colonial and early national Latin

America (up to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or so). It will deal primarily with Spanish America, although interested students may do their research on Brazil or even the Caribbean. The reading will be quite heavy, especially in the first quarter (247A), as well as theoretical and comparative. After setting up some themes and doing some theoretical, methodological, and comparative thinking and discussion on them, we will double back in the last weeks of the first quarter and the first weeks of the second (247B) to look at some monographs on Latin America dealing with the same and/or cognate questions. The reading in the second quarter will be somewhat lighter to allow students to work on their research papers; there will be one or more weeks in the second quarter with no seminar meetings, when students will meet individually with the instructor to discuss the progress of their projects. The last two weeks of the seminar, at the instructor's discretion, will be devoted to in-class presentations and critiques of research projects.

Students signed up for **both** quarters of the course will be expected to produce a substantial research essay on a topic of their choice, based at least in part on primary sources. This paper will account for most of the cumulative grade for the two quarters (an "IP"—In Progress—grade will be given for the first quarter, and the final grade given retroactively to replace it). Students may opt to take HIGR 247A, in the winter quarter, as a freestanding reading seminar, in which case they will be expected to produce a substantial paper (minimum 20 pages) on some aspect of the reading, or the reading in conjunction with some other ongoing project of their own, in consultation with the instructor. **It is imperative that research topics be selected as early in the first quarter as possible, and in no case later than week four.**

Except as otherwise noted, the books will be available in paperback at the UCSD Bookstore, and have been placed on reserve in the Humanities and Social Science Library. Historiographical and other articles will be made available from time to time by the instructor.

**Course requirements:**

(These apply to those students taking the course as a research seminar—the individual components

will not be graded as such, but rather evaluated as a whole at the end of the spring quarter.)

–**Preliminary prospectus:** A statement of the research paper topic and research strategy, about a page or so in length, with a preliminary bibliography; due 4<sup>th</sup> week (28 January).

–**Full prospectus:** A more fully developed statement of the research topic, with some account of the progress in research and problems to date, and a fuller bibliography, 3-5 pages in length; due 8<sup>th</sup> week (25 February).

–**Research paper:** A substantial piece of research and writing, based at least in part on primary sources, a minimum of 30 pages in length (anything up to 100 pages or so gladly accepted); drafts will be due some time during the latter weeks of the second quarter (perhaps about the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> week, but this will be determined by the instructor), to be circulated among the other seminar members preliminary to the last two meetings of the spring quarter, when each paper writer will make an extended oral presentation and conduct a discussion on his/her topic; the paper itself is due on the day preceding the end of exam week in the spring quarter, Thursday, 11 June.

–**Effective oral participation in seminar discussions:** Seminar members are expected to make presentations on the reading material from time to time, to participate actively in discussions even when they are not formally presenting, and to make a well organized presentation on their research project at the end of the second quarter.

### Themes, readings, calendar

<u>Week</u>	<u>Theme and readings</u>
1 – 7 January	First seminar meeting—organizing discussion; short session No reading in advance of seminar
2 – 14 January	Cultural history Discussion of Peter Burke, <i>What is Cultural History?</i> Article by Van Young (possibly “The New Cultural History Comes to Old Mexico”)
3 – 21 January	Anthropology and the subject Discussion of Sherry Ortner, <i>Anthropology and Social Theory: Culture, Power, and the Acting Subject</i> Article by Van Young TBA
4 – 28 January	Space and place Discussion of Tim Cresswell, <i>Place: A Short Introduction</i> Article by Van Young on regions and regionalism <b>Preliminary prospectus due in class</b>
5 – 4 February	The state Discussion of James C. Scott, <i>Seeing Like a State: How</i>

*Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition have Failed*

- 6 – 11 February            Psychologies  
Discussion of Peter Gay, *Freud for Historians*  
Articles: Peter Loewenberg, *Decoding the Past*, chapters on  
emotional aspects of graduate education  
Van Young, “Millennium on the Northern Marches”
- 7 – 18 February            Historical memory  
Discussion of Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds.,  
*The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge, 1992)  
Articles: Oliver Sacks, “The Ancient Mariner,” from *The Man Who*  
*Mistook his Wife for a Hat*  
Possibly on the Andean region by Thomas Abercrombie; and/or on  
Mexico by Van Young
- 8 – 25 February            Historical memory, continued  
Discussion of Joanne Rappaport, *The Politics of Memory:*  
*Native Historical Interpretation in the Colombian Andes*  
(Possibly articles, TBA)  
**Full prospectus due in class**
- 9 – 4 March                Early civil society and the public sphere  
Discussion of Carlos Forment, *Democracy in Latin America,*  
*1760-1790: Civil Selfhood and Public Life in Mexico and Peru*  
(Possibly articles, TBA)
- 10 - 11 March              Comparative ideologies of empire  
Discussion of Anthony Pagden, *Lords of All the World: Ideologies*  
*of Empire in Spain, Britain, and France c. 1500-c. 1800*

**Spring quarter–HIGR247B**

**Second quarter of seminar:**

The form of the second quarter of the seminar is still somewhat fluid at this point. We will continue with readings for the first six weeks. Possible candidates for the readings include a work of David Brading’s, possibly *The First America*; Alberto Flores Galindo’s *Buscando un Inca*; Steve Stern, ed., *Resistance, Rebellion, and Consciousness in the Andean Peasant World*; William Beezley, et. al., eds., *Rituals of Rule, Rituals of Resistance*; Patricia Seed, *Ceremonies of*

*Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World*; Serge Gruzinski, *The Mestizo Mind: The Intellectual Dynamics of Colonization and Globalization*; or Laura A. Lewis, *Hall of Mirrors: Power, Witchcraft, and Caste in Colonial Mexico*. We may devote week seven to individualized research and writing, and week eight to a seminar meeting to discuss research problems, methodological issues, etc. Weeks nine and ten will be devoted to in-class presentations of research findings and open criticism of the drafts circulated earlier.