

History 112 A: Introduction to Latin American History

Spring 2015

Dr. Abigail Markwyn
Department of History

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the history of the region we call “Latin America” from pre-Columbian times to the present. My goal in this course is to introduce you to the major trends and events that have shaped the history of Latin America, with a closer “snapshot” view on specific episodes in various nations. By the end of the course, then, you should have a basic understanding of the larger narrative of Latin American history from its ancient civilizations through the contemporary struggles and issues confronting the many nations and peoples of the region. We will pay particular attention to questions of political and social power and how race, gender and class have shaped the region’s history, always recognizing that these dynamics play out slightly differently in each of these nations. This course also introduces students to the discipline and methodology of history, so we will spend a good bit of time discussing how to read and analyze historical sources. Writing is an essential component of this course and the discipline of history, so you will be expected to spend a good deal of time focusing on the development of your writing skills in conjunction with this course. There are no prerequisites. This course fulfills the LSP VI requirement and HI, CCD requirement. (for details see the catalog).

Course Goals:

By the end of the semester you should be able to:

1. identify key individuals, places, events, groups, and trends in Latin American History
2. demonstrate some knowledge of current issues in Latin America and explain their connections to the history of the region
3. demonstrate an understanding of the political and social forces that have shaped Latin American history and culture
4. demonstrate knowledge of Latin American culture as well as an appreciation for the region’s art, religion, philosophy, and material culture
5. understand the difference between a primary and secondary source as well as how historians use them
6. offer both written and oral interpretations and criticisms of both primary and secondary sources
7. write a historical argument that displays an understanding of the concepts of continuity and change, and support that argument with evidence from multiple sources
8. work collaboratively with others, both in person and online to discuss and examine historical sources and express your findings regarding those sources to the larger class

Assignments and grading:

Map Quiz: (2%) identify geographical features of Central and South America, as well as nations and settlements. (Goal 1)

Midterm Exam : (13%) combination of identification, chronologies and essay based on readings and lecture, given online. (Goal 1, 3, 4, 6)

Final Exam : (15%) part covers material since second midterm and will be structured like midterm. Will include a cumulative essay question. Given online. (Goal 1, 3, 4, 7))

Milwaukee Public Museum Project (15%): paper based on visit and research conducted in the Ancient Latin America collections of the Milwaukee Public Museum. (Goal 1, 4, 6)

Book Paper (15%) Paper based on *Dictatorship in South America*, due toward the end of the semester. (Goal 1, 3-7)

Country Study Project (15%): You will work in groups of 3 to research the history of a specific Latin American nation. You will present to the class about your findings, as well as submit an individual paper based on your research. Half the class will present on the 19th century and half will present on the 20th century. Further information will follow. (Goal 1, 3-8)

In-Class Attendance/Participation: (10%) see below for full description. Active participation is a necessary component of this course. A student who comes to class regularly, but does not speak can expect a “C” at the most for participation. Occasional pop quizzes and in-class writing will also be factored into this grade. (Goal 1-5, 7)

Media Articles Journal: (15%): Since a key part of this course is drawing connections between the past and present, you will be expected to regularly read contemporary news coverage of Latin America. Full assignment will be passed out the first day of class. At the end of the semester you will write a 3-4 page paper synthesizing your findings during the semester that will be turned in at the final exam. Further information will follow. (Goal 1-4)

Readings found in Carroll College Bookstore

- Cheryl E. Martin and Mark Wasserman, *Latin America and Its People* (3rd edition combined volume) (Pearson 2012)
- Jerry Dávila, *Dictatorship in South America* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)
- Numerous supplemental readings indicated in syllabus, found online or on mycourses

I expect that you complete all readings prior to class on the date assigned. Success in this course depends on your willingness to spend time closely reading the assigned texts. Some are complex and require multiple readings, while others require close attention to detail. Expect to spend two hours studying for every one hour of class time. Do not waste your time or mine by coming to class unprepared.

Tentative Schedule of Readings and Lectures

****Note: print and bring ALL assigned readings to class each day****

Date Topic/Readings

Week 1: Getting Started

Jan. 20 Introduction

Jan. 22 Ancient Latin America
Readings: Latin America and its People (LAP) Chapter 1

Week 2: The pre-Columbian World

Jan. 27: The Eve of Conquest
Readings: LAP, Ch. 2; "Chronicles of the Incas"
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1540cieza.asp>
Map Quiz today!

Jan 29: Contact and Conquest begins
Readings: LAP, Ch. 3, pp. 64-82 ; Letter of Columbus on his first voyage:
<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text1/columbusletter.pdf>; Las Casas, "A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies,"
http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text7/casas_destruction.pdf;

Media Journal 1 Due

Week 3: Creating and Iberian-American Colonial World

Feb. 3: Conquest Continue
Readings: LAP, Ch. 3, pp. 82-end, Ch. 4 96-115

Feb. 5 : Indigenous Peoples' Changing World
Readings: LAP, Ch. 4, 115-end, Ch. 5, 126-146; ; account of the vision of the Virgin of Guadalupe <http://www.sancta.org/nican.html>

Week 4: Race and Gender in Colonial Latin America

Feb 10: Slavery in Latin America
Readings: LAP, Ch. 5, 146-end, Ch. 6, 156-162; Problems, Ch. 2

Feb. 12 Race and Honor in Colonial Society
Readings: LAP: Ch. 6, 162-end; castas reading at
<http://faculty.smu.edu/bakewell/BAKEWELL/thinksheets/castas.html>
(read intro and examine images)

MPM project due today

Week 5: Rebellion and Independence

Feb. 17 Rebellion and Resistance in the Late Colonial Period
Readings; LAP, Ch. 7, rebellion documents posted on mycourses

Feb. 19 Independence
Readings: LAP, Ch. 8, Problems, Ch. 1

Media Journal 2 due today

Week 6: An Independent Latin America

Feb. 24: The Challenges of Independence
Readings; LAP, Ch. 9, Problems, Ch. 3

Feb. 26 Liberals and Conservatives
Readings: Problems, Ch. 4

Week 7: Women in 19th Century Latin America

March 3: "Camila"

Midterm exam due online by midnight tonight.

March 5: Women in Latin America
Readings: Problems, Ch. 7

Media Journal 3 due today

Week 8: Late 19th C. Latin America

March 17 Latin America and the 19th c. World
Readings: LAP, Ch. 10

March 19 19th c. Country Study Presentations

Week 9: Mid-19th Century Latin America

March 24: Race and Nation Building
Readings: Problems, Ch. 5

Short Paper due today

March 26 The US and Latin America,
Readings: Ruben Dario to Roosevelt:
http://public.wsu.edu/~wldciv/world_civ_reader/world_civ_reader_2/dario.html; the Platt Amendment:
<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1901platt.asp>; Calvin Coolidge, “
Intervention in Nicaragua”
<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/cc101.htm>

Media Journal 4 due today

Week 10: Neocolonialism and Imperialism emerge

March 31: Neocolonialism and Revolution
Readings: Mexican Revolution documents posted on mycourses

April 2 Nationalism
Readings: Problems, Ch. 6

Week 11: Revolution and Nationalism

April 7 Populism
Readings: LAP Ch. 12; Problems, Ch. 8

April 9 Cuba and Cold War Politics
Readings: Problems, Ch. 9-10, *Dictatorship*, to p. 22

Media Journal 5 due

Week 12: Cold War Conflicts

April 14 Dictatorship in South America
Readings: Dictatorship, Ch. 2-4

April 16 Dictatorship , II
Readings:, Dictatorship, Ch. 5-conclusion

Week 13: Cold War dictators and revolutionaries

April 21 Late 20th century Latin America: Case Studies
Country Study Presentations,
Readings: LAP, Ch. 14

April 23 Latin America in the Global Economy
Readings: LAP, Ch. 15, Problems, Ch. 11

Dictatorship Paper Due Today

Week 14: Latin America Today

April 28 The Problem of Historical Memory
Readings: Problems, Ch. 12

Final Exam due Friday May 1 at 4 pm.