

HIST/LATI 181-01

Introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean

Macalester College, Fall 2015

MWF 1:10-2:10, THEATRE 204

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Office: Old Main 302 (x6772)
Office Hours: T 1:30-2:30; W – 3:30-4:30 and by appt.

Overview

This course presents a survey of major themes and moments in the history of the variegated region somewhat reductively termed Latin America. It will follow a roughly chronological approach, beginning on the eve of encounter and ending in the late twentieth century. Given the wide scope of the class, we will not be able to cover every country or every sociocultural movement. Instead, we will focus upon broad thematics.

The course unfolds in three units. The first concerns the great upheaval of the conquest with an emphasis on the sixteenth-century encounter. The second treats the transition from colonies to nations during the “long” nineteenth century with a special attention to “science” and “progress.” The third concerns the rise and fall (and rise) of the corporate state during the twentieth century, with special attention to the expanding regional role of the USA.

Throughout the semester we will be concerned with the heterogeneity of Latin American cultures and traditions, with a particular focus upon a process called “transculturation.” We will contextualize the hybridity of Latin American culture within its global context, examining the interaction between local traditions and global processes. Given this great diversity, we shall also interrogate the utility of the unifying term “Latin America” to describe this region of the world.

Books and Readings

The following books are available at the bookstore for purchase and will be on reserve in the library.

Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs* (Hackett 2006)
Robert Whitaker, *The Mapmaker's Wife* (Delta 2004)
Titu Cusi Yupanqui, *An Inca Account of the Conquest of Peru* (Colorado, 2005)

Other readings will be distributed via the course moodle site (see below). Please note that this is a cross-listed course – only the History moodle site will be regularly updated.

Recommended Textbook

The recommended textbook for this class is John Chasteen's *Born in Blood and Fire*. You are not required to purchase this textbook but may find it helpful to reinforce concepts covered in lecture and discussions or to provide a general narrative timeline. Other possible surveys you may wish to consider purchasing include Restall/Lane, *The Riddle of Latin America* or Burns/Charlip, *Latin America: An Interpretive History*. For the colonial period see Brown, *Latin America: A Social History of the Colonial Period* or Burkholder/Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*. For the modern period see Skidmore/Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Each of these have multiple editions and inexpensive copies can be found online.

Assessment

Assessment will reflect your ability to engage broader course themes, critically analyze secondary and primary sources, and conduct independent research. Since this is an introductory course, a premium is placed upon introducing the basics of historical research methods and analytical writing. This course is also a Writing (Practice) course.

Grading will be based on the following four elements:

1. 3 Document Analyses (2-3 pages) – 20 % (1st 2 at 5%, 3rd at 10%)
2. 2 Mid-Terms – 35% (1st at 15%, 2nd at 20%)
3. Final Paper (7-9 pages) – 20%
4. Attendance/Participation – 25%

Document Analyses – 20%

Historians study primary sources (i.e., an original document from the era under scrutiny) in order to gain insight into the pathway of historical change. The documents themselves, whether written, oral, visual, architectural, etc., in essence *are* history. This survey will require you to read and experience a series of primary sources (marked PS in the syllabus), which will be discussed in class. You will also be asked to write your own short response (2-3 pages) to 3 documents over the course of the term. The first two will be chosen from in-class reading; the third from your own research on your final paper. These should explicate the source, i.e., summarize its main components and explain why it is important. You should consider questions such as the source's origins. Who is its author and what is their perspective on their era? Who is its audience? What kinds of social or cultural tensions or other phenomena are demonstrated in the piece? More broadly, what does it tell us about the complexities and tendencies of Latin American history? That is to say, how does it fit with the broader themes under discussion in class and in the secondary reading?

The first two document analyses papers will be worth 5% and the third will be worth 10% for a total of 20% of your final grade. The due dates are: 9/25; 10/28; 11/24.

Note – your first two document analyses will be based on our common readings, your third will be on a document you have found in your research for your final paper (see below).

Mid-Term Exams – 35%

There will be two mid-term exams at the end of the first two units. The first (15%) will be an in-class midterm held 10/2 and will cover our discussion of the “Conquest.” This midterm will consist of two parts. The first will ask you to identify four out of eight key terms (20 points) while in the second part you will write an essay responding to one of two questions (80 points). A study guide will be distributed including possible

ID terms and a list of themes discussed during the unit from which the essay questions will be derived. Depending on student interest, a review session may be held beforehand.

The second midterm (20%) will consist of two short (2-4 page) take-home reflective essays in response to a series of prompts reflecting upon our second unit on the relationship between “progress”, “science”, and “nation” in 18th-19th-century Latin American history. The final format of the prompts will be determined during our forum on Unit II on November 4 and will be distributed by Friday November 6. The take-home exam will be due Friday Nov 13 via Moodle upload by 6 pm. Class will not meet that day to facilitate your completion of the exam.

Final Paper – 20%

The final paper (in lieu of a final exam) will consist of a research paper on a topic of your own choosing chosen in consultation with Prof. Capello. Further guidelines will be distributed following Fall Break and individual consultations will be scheduled in early November. The first formal step in crafting this paper will be the development of a proposal and preliminary bibliography, which will be due 18 November. Your last documentary analysis will concern one of the primary sources in your bibliography and will be due 24 November. The final paper must show evidence of further research and will be due by the end of the day 16 December. The final paper will be 7-9 pages long.

Participation – 25%

1. General Participation (15%)

The success of our class depends upon your regular attendance and participation. Discussions will be one of the driving forces of this class – I expect you to have done the reading and be ready to courteously discuss the issues raised in readings, lectures, and presentations. No cell phones, no loud foods, no laptops, no personal attacks. If you are chronically absent, no matter how well you do on your papers, you will not pass the course. General participation also includes your completion of ungraded in-class and homework writing and skills assignments.

2. Class Facilitation (5%)

Each student will be expected to facilitate discussion on one reading over the course of the semester. This will require you to summarize the reading for the day, drawing out its main points, and providing a series of questions that may serve to spark class discussion. The week before you are supposed to facilitate discussion, you must arrange to meet with Professor Capello regarding your thoughts on the class. These will then be emailed to the class list (Hist-181-01@lists.macalester.edu) the day before our class meeting.

3. News Briefing (5%)

The relevance of the historical to the contemporary is paramount. In order to help draw out the legacies and inflections of the past in the present day, we will begin most classes with a news briefing reflecting events in Latin America from the previous week. There will be two (or sometimes 3) briefings in a given week. If there are 2 briefings in a given class period, you will divide the hemisphere between yourselves. Your briefings may incorporate multi-media presentations, powerpoints, or simply consist of writing a few notes on the board. Please restrict yourself to no more than five minutes. (5%)

General Paper Guidelines/Lateness Policy

Papers should be uploaded onto Moodle by 6:00 pm on their due date with the exception of Document Analysis 3 and the final paper which are due at midnight November 25 and December 16, respectively. Emailed papers will not be accepted. *Papers turned in late will be penalized 1/3 grade per 24-hour period with a maximum penalty of two letter grades.* Word to the wise - it is always better to hand in a late paper than no paper.

All your essays will be graded for internal coherence, analytical rigor, and control over the material discussed. Besides working with Professor Capello, you are encouraged and may wish to avail yourself of the resources of the MAX Center, which offers drop-in advice and consultation regarding writing projects. The center is located in Kagin Commons and is

open seven days a week. For more information, see their website (<http://www.macalester.edu/max/>)

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Be sure that your written work reflects your own ideas and be sure to properly attribute the work of others. For guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism, see <http://www.macalester.edu/max/writinghandbook/plagiarism.html>.

Disability Accommodations

In some circumstances, course design may pose barriers to a student's ability to access or demonstrate mastery of course content. Reasonable academic accommodations can be implemented in such circumstances. If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at your earliest convenience. The Assistant Dean of Students, Robin Hart Ruthenbeck, coordinates services for first and second year students. The Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, coordinates students for juniors and seniors. You may schedule an appointment with either of them by calling the Office of Student Affairs, 651-696-6220.

Moodle and Assignments

The course Moodle site includes the course syllabus and will also serve as the distributor for weekly assignments, paper prompts and guidelines, and as a repository for electronic copies of readings. Go to <http://moodle.macalester.edu/> to access Moodle, and login with your Macalester username and password. Once you have logged in, click on the course link in the My Courses section (please use the History 181 link).



Sanity Clause: This syllabus represents an amendable document, which is ultimately

responsive to student interest as well as the framer's intent. Changes in assignments, including cancelled, or added readings will be announced in class and by email.

Readings

9/2 – Introduction: Worlds of Latin America

9/4 – Latin America as Historical Subject

- Latin American History Textbook Introductions

Unit I – Conquest: Adventure, Myth, Legend?

9/7 – No Class (Labor Day)

9/9 – Europe, Africa, Americas on the Eve of Encounter

- Spotlight Islam and Medieval Iberia
- “Coexistence in the Medieval Spanish Kingdoms” (PS)
- Seed, “The Requirement”

9/11 – Mythical Conquests

- Restall, “A Handful of Adventurers”
- Cortes on Tenochtitlan (PS)

9/14 – Spotlight: La Malinche

- Restall, “The Lost Words of La Malinche”
- Townsend, “Malintzin's Choices”

9/16 – Transculturation and the Black Legend

- Pratt, “Arts of the Contact Zone”, 1-4
- Cook, “The Mysterious Catalina: Indian or Spaniard”

9/18 – The Black Legend

- Las Casas, “The Destruction of the Indies” PS

- Cañizares, “The Devil in the New World”

9/21 – The Inkas

- *An Inca Account*, 1-46

9/23 – Bearing Witness

- *An Inca Account*, 57-79 (PS)

9/25 – Honor, Power, and Indigenous Nobility

- Mumford, “Aristocracy on the Auction Block”
- **Documentary Analysis 1 Due**

9/28 – Titu Cusi Yupanqui’s Legacy

- *An Inca Account*, 79-139 (PS)

9/30 – Forum: The Conquest

- Restall, Gaspar Antonio Chi: Bridging the Conquest of Yucatan
- Paz, *Labyrinth of Solitude* (selections) PS

10/2 – Midterm I (in-class)

Unit II – Progress, Race and Nation

10/5 – Markets, Race, and Power

- Bauer, “The Colonial Economy”
- Karasch, “Zumbi of Palmares”

10/7 – A Global Empire

- Slack, Sinifying New Spain
- Taylor/Cummins, Mulatto Gentlemen of Esmeraldas

10/9 – Baroque Flourishes

- Sor Juana’s Letter to Sor Filotea PS
- Sao Bento de Olinda

10/12 – The Bourbon and Pombaline Reforms

- Whittaker, *The Mapmaker’s Wife*, 1-135
- Two Casta Paintings

- 10/14 – Extended Frontiers
- Whittaker, *The Mapmaker's Wife*, 135-205
- 10/16 – Madame' Godin's Travels
- Whittaker, *The Mapmaker's Wife*, 205-end
- 10/19 – Andean Insurrection
- Areche, "All Must Die" PS
 - Vacas Galindo, "Searching for an Inca"
- 10/21 – The Independence Wars
- Bolivar Selections
- 10/23 – No Class (Fall Break)
- 10/26 – What are these things called Nations?
- Sarmiento, "Facundo" PS
 - Décimas to Santa Ana's Leg PS
- 10/28 – Technology, the Environment, and An Export Boom
- Miller, "Tropical Determinism"
 - **Documentary Analysis 2 Due**
- 10/30 –Reforms and Positivists in Mexico
- Letters from Empress Carlota
 - Kuecker, "Alejandro Prieto: *Científico* from the Provinces"
- 11/2 – Reforms and Positivists in Brazil and Argentina
- Needell, "Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires"
 - Lugones, National Identity in a Cosmopolitan Society (PS)
 - Sousa Pinto, "City of Mist" (PS)
- 11/4 – FORUM: Race, Science, and the Nation

Unit III – Revolution, the Corporate State, and the Colossus to the North

- 11/6 – The Mexican Revolution
- Creelman, "President Díaz: Hero of the Americas" PS

- Zapata, Plan de Ayala PS
- 11/9 – The Underdogs
- Reed, “Insurgent Mexico,” in Azuela, *The Underdogs*, pp. 124-58
 - Azuela, *The Underdogs*, Part One
- 11/11 – *The Underdogs*
- Azuela, *The Underdogs*, Part Two and Part Three
- 11/13 – Midterm II
- **No class. Mid-Term 2 Due**
- 11/16 – From a Big Stick to a Good Neighbor
- Burton, “*Don (Juanito) Duck and the Imperial Patriarchal Discourse*”
 - Darío, “Ode to Roosevelt” (PS)
 - Smith, *Talons of the Eagle* selections (recommended)
- 11/18 – State Corporatism in Mexico and Brazil
- Vianna, Why the Estado Novo? PS
 - Diffie, Comments on the Estado Novo PS
 - **Final Paper Proposal Due**
- 11/20 – State Corporatism in Argentina
- Eva Perón, “My Mission in Life” PS
- 11/23 – The Onset of the Cold War
- Castro, “History will absolve me” PS
 - China Palero, “Waiting Tables in Havana” PS
 - **Documentary Analysis 3 Due 11/24**
- 11/25 – 11/27 – Thanksgiving Break
- 11/30 - Life in Revolutionary Havana
- Guillermoprieto, *Dancing with Cuba* (selections)
 - Cardenal, *In Cuba* (selections)
- 12/2 – Mexican Revolution Redux?
- Keller, “A Foreign Policy for Domestic Consumption”
 - Poniatowska, *Massacre in Mexico* (selections)

12/4 – State Revolution Run Aground in Chile

- Verdugo, *Chile, Pinochet, and the Caravan of Death*
- Kornbluh, “The Pinochet File” PS

12/7 – The Dirty War in Argentina

- Vila, “Rock nacional and dictatorship in Argentina”

12/9 – Neoliberalism & its Discontents

- Grandin, “Reagan in Cancún”
- Chavez, “The UN Speech”

12/11 FORUM: What is this thing called Latin America?

- Martin, *Journeys Through the Labyrinth*
- Bary, “The Search for Cultural Identity”
- Mignolo, *Local Histories, Global Designs*

Final Paper due midnight 12/16