HIST 381
Winter 2015

Latin America, 1750-1910

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 8-10 am and Friday, 1-2 pm.

Course Description

The “long nineteenth century” (1750-1910) in Latin America was a period of intense political, social, and economic transformation. After the crisis of the colonial system in the second half of the eighteenth century and the struggles for independence in the 1810s and 1820s, the peoples of the newly independent countries faced the daunting task of building nations and states from the spoils of war. What followed was an era of instability and political turmoil (the age of caudillismo) that lasted several decades. After the mid-century, the countries of the region entered a period of gradual political stabilization, state centralization, and further economic integration into the world market. By the early twentieth century, the forces of progress and modernization seemed to have radically altered the social fabric of Latin American countries, but strong continuities with the colonial past still informed the ways in which peoples from different classes, races, and sexes interacted.

This course provides an overview of these processes and attempts to offer an interpretive synthesis of the intricate struggles around the definition of social, political, and cultural hierarchies and boundaries within the countries of the region.

Course Evaluations

- Map quiz (10%).
- Take-home midterm exam (20%).
- Four quizzes. These short quizzes will include questions from lectures and readings. The dates are listed below (10% each, 40% total).
- Final exam (30%).

Make-up quiz: Students who miss the map quiz and/or one of the other quizzes will be allowed to make up only one during the final week of the term. No other make-up opportunities will be offered, unless written evidence of a medical emergency is offered.
Course policies

- Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be hard to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials. Quizzes and exams will include questions from the readings.
- The instructor and the GTF will hold regular office hours every week. Students are encouraged to visit them to discuss pertinent issues or get additional information about the course's themes, policies, and grades.
- A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.
- A classroom atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment—thus, no eating, chatting, text-messaging, or newspaper reading are allowed during class. The use of electronic devices is not allowed during class. The only exception will be the use of a laptop computer or tablet to take lecture notes. If you plan to bring one you must seat in the front row and may not engage in internet browsing during class time. Failure to comply with this policy will force the instructor to ban the use of laptop computers and tablets in the classroom.
- Course incompletes will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in the mid-term. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.
- The final exam is scheduled for March 19. DO NOT MAKE PLANS FOR AN EARLY DEPARTURE FOR SPRING BREAK. THERE WILL BE NO EARLY FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE.

What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America between 1750 and 1910, including major social processes and events such as anti-colonial uprisings, independence movements, caudillo struggles, foreign wars, liberal reforms, the gradual decline of slavery, and the early stages of US imperialism in the region.
- How to think about history in terms of the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that shape it
- Some of the most important controversies surrounding the history of Latin America during the period under study
- How to interpret primary sources
- How to think about Latin America as a region and understand the commonalities and differences between the various countries and cultural areas

Required readings

Students will have to read three books during the term. They are available for purchase at the U of O bookstore and on reserve at Knight Library.

In addition, a series of articles and chapters will be posted on blackboard (they are marked below as (BB). These materials are also *required* readings.

### SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

#### Week 1

01/06 Introduction to the course: The colonial heritage of Latin America  
01/08 The second conquest: Bourbon reforms in late colonial Spanish America

**Readings:**

- Chasteen, “Encounter” (BB)  
- Chasteen, “Colonial Crucible” (BB)

#### Week 2

01/13 MAP QUIZ / The making of creole nationalism  
01/15 The Tupac Amaru Rebellion

**Readings:**

- Walker, *The Tupac Amaru Rebellion*, ALL;  
- Viscardo y Guzmán, Letter to the Spanish Americans

#### Week 3

01/20 The course of Spanish American independence  
01/22 The aftermath of independence: Building the new Nation-states / Quiz # 1

**Readings:**

- Chasteen, “Postcolonial blues” (BB)  
- Chasteen, “Independence” (BB)  
- Lynch, “San Martin” (BB)
Week 4
01/27 Caudillos and caudillismo: an overview / Antonio López de Santa Anna
01/29 Juan Manuel de Rosas: Caudillo and Dictator

Reading:
- Lynch, *Argentine Caudillo*, all

Week 5
02/03 The Mexican-American War (1846-1848)
02/05 La Reforma, Foreign Intervention and the Rise of Porfirio Díaz / Quiz # 2

Readings:
- James Polk, “Texas, Mexico, and Manifest Destiny” (BB)
- Chasteen, “Progress” (BB)
- Beezley and MacLachlan, “Centrifugal Forces” (BB)
- Beezley and MacLachlan, “Liberalism Defined” (BB)

Week 6
02/10 Take Home Midterm Due / Chile: Authoritarian rule and political stability
02/12 Peru: Caudillos, Guano, War, and Crisis

Reading
- Klaren, “From Rags to Riches” (BB)
- Klaren, “War of the Pacific and Reconstruction” (BB)

Week 7
02/17 Brazil: From Monarchy to Republic
02/19 Slavery and Abolition in Brazil / Quiz # 3

Reading:
- Graham, *Caetana Says No*, all.
- Henry Koster, “Travels in Brazil” (BB)
Week 8

02/24 Sugar, Slavery, and War in Nineteenth-Century Cuba
02/26 Video and discussion

Reading

- Perez, *The War of 1898*, all.
- William McKinley, “The Decision to Act Against Spain” (BB)

Week 9

03/03 Argentina and the conquest of the desert / Quiz # 4
03/05 Order and Progress in Porfirián Mexico. Guest lecture by Professor Robert Haskett

Readings:

- Chasteen, ‘Neocolonialism” (BB)
- Beezley and MacLachlan, “The Porfiriato”, parts I and II (BB)

Week 10

03/10 Turn-of-the-century Latin America: Society, Culture, and Politics
03/12 Review for final exam / Make-up quiz

**Final Exam: Wednesday**, March 19, 8:00-10:00 am.