Latin America before Independence

This course introduces students to the Colonial History of Latin America from the epoch of the Spanish and Portuguese Conquests up to the completion of the Wars of Independence in the 1820s. We will examine the European and Amerindian Background, the Voyages of Exploration, the processes of Conquest, the establishment and development of New Societies, Spanish and Portuguese Institutions in the Americas, frontier experiences, the Wars between European Nations for Dominance, and the emergence of an American identity. Attention will be given to themes such as Miscegenation, Labor Systems, Frontiers, International Wars, Governance, and the emergence of Privileged Corporations. In 2009, Spanish American historians and the governments of all Latin American nations are set to launch the Bicentennial celebrations of their nations commencing in 1810 and continuing to 2021 or up to 2026. Beginning in 2010 they will celebrate their origins as independent nations and reconsider their individual struggles leading to national independence. We will examine guerrilla warfare, insurgency, counterinsurgency, and other forms of armed struggle. Finally, we will discuss the nature of the struggles for independence and in some cases indentify what actually happened as opposed to adopting the heroic myths that created larger than live leaders and denigrated roles of the Spanish and sometimes the Portuguese.

Course Text Books:


Outline of Lectures:

A] From Reconquest to Empire: Castile and Portugal

B] Technology, Guns, and Ships: The Expansion of Portugal and Castile

C] The Indigenous Background: The Aztecs, Mayas, Incas, and other cultures
D] Discovery or Encounter: The Conquest and Occupation of the Americas by the Spanish and Portuguese

F] The Society of the Conquest: Colonial Administration, the Spiritual Conquest, Demographic Disasters, Labor, and the origins of economic endeavors

G] Foreign Competition: Pirates, Contrabandists, Buccaneers, and Slavers

H] Cities, Politics, and Society in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Latin America

I] Frontiers, Frontier Institutions, Missions, Mining, Commerce, and Indigenous Relations

J] The Spanish and Portuguese American Enlightenment, Unrest, Uprisings, and early signs of National Consciousness

K] Precursor Revolutionary Movements and Uprisings

L] The Wars of Independence: Revolutions, Civil Wars, Insurgency, Counterinsurgency, Guerrilla Warfare, and Banditry

M] Conclusions

Weighting of Grades

Mid-Term Test
Thursday, October 15, 2009---75 minutes in class-------------------20%

Take-Home Final Examination
This assignment is due seven days following the last class in December, 2009.--------------------40%

Term Essay:
Due date, Thursday, November 19, 2009               -------------------40%

Please plan ahead to avoid a deduction of grades for late essays.

Total                                                                                                   100%

GENERAL NOTE: In order to obtain a passing grade for the course, students must attempt each of the above assignments.

Each student will prepare an analytical essay of about ten to twelve pages--approximately 2,500-3,000 words. [Discuss your selected topic with the instructor and present a title, hypothesis or thesis, and a proposed preliminary Bibliography prior to Thursday,
October 3, 2009. Topics may be selected from the reading list or from areas of individual interest.

**Nine Pillars of Wisdom:**

1] Number the pages.
2] Watch paragraph length—not too long or too short.
3] Use footnotes or endnotes (please do not use citations in the text as in some Social Science disciplines such as Anthropology or Geography). Check the printed History Department “Essay Guide” available at the Department’s Home Page.
4] Proofread--spell check misses "their" and "there," “friar” and “fryer,” etc.
5] Use apostrophe where needed.
6] Work up a stimulating title and hypothesis for the essay.
7] Explain your thesis or analytical approach in the Introduction and write a strong Conclusion to the essay.
8] Avoid citing encyclopedias in your Bibliography. Exercise special care with these sources and other weak ones from the Internet. Avoid general internet sites for example and make certain that you list all sites by name as well as Internet address in your Bibliography. Indicate in your footnotes what may be found in the sites cited.
9] When citing material from the Internet, be sure to provide a subject title as well as the site address.

**Suggested Areas for launching Essay Topics:**

1: The Spanish Conquest of America was a continuation of the Iberian *Reconquista.*

2: The Spanish Conquistador: Man or Devil? Choose your conqueror and region.

3: The Indigenous Resistance—Too Little, Too Late? Topics could be drawn from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

4: The Myths and Realities of Columbus: Great Explorer, Terrible Governor. Other explorers and conquerors offer lots of latitude for essay topics. See the Hakluyt Society Publications and other sources for translated journals.

5: The Spiritual Conquest of the Americas

6: Spain’s Indian Policies: Humane or Cruel? Encomienda, Repartimiento, etc.

7: African Slavery in Spanish or Portuguese America

8: The Frontier in Spanish or Portuguese America. The best known frontier is the north of New Spain, but there are other possibilities.

9: The “New Laws” and Violence in Peru
10: English, Dutch, or French Incursions into Spanish America in the sixteenth and/or seventeenth centuries.

11: The “Boom” and “Bust” Economy in Brazil

12: The Demographic Disaster: The Decline of the Native population

13: The impact of Bourbon imperial reforms in the eighteenth century

14: The Roles of Women in Colonial Spanish America

15: The expulsion of the Jesuits from Spanish America in 1767

16: The Black Revolution of Haiti

17: Pre-Independence Movement Rebellions—the Comuneros, Tupac Amaru, and others

18: The military and political ideas of Simon Bolivar

19: The development of landholding systems

20: The Scientific expeditions of Alexander von Humboldt

21: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in the Independence Period

22: The Impact of Priests and Nuns in Spanish America

23: Gold and Diamonds in Brazil

24: The Portuguese American frontier

25: The introduction of military forces to defend Spanish America

26: Spain and Spanish America: The Stresses of Relations between the Metropolis and the Overseas Provinces. This topic could be examined for the 16th, 17th, or 18th centuries

DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not.

As noted in the Department of History Guide to Essay Presentation, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.

- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.

- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.

- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in The University of Calgary Calendar.

SAFEWALK/Campus Security: 220-5333

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints