Department of History, Carleton University
HIST 2307A
History of Latin America: Conquest to Nations
2008-2009 Academic Year

Time: Wednesday and Friday, 4:05 to 5:25 pm
Location: 210 Tory Building
Instructor: Christine Rivas
Office: Paterson Hall
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Office Hours: 2:30 to 4:00 on Fridays

Course description: This course offers a broad overview of the history of Latin America from the fifteenth century to the late twentieth century. By its nature the course follows a chronological framework that introduces major concepts, arguments and figures in the field of Latin American history. The approach is mostly thematic with regional examples in order to follow the development of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies into independent nations. The course is divided into two major periods, which correspond to the fall and winter academic terms: colonial and national.

Course Materials: All of the assigned readings will be posted on WEBCT. You can also download them from Carleton’s MacOdrum Library’s electronic journals collections. The library’s home page is: http://www.library.carleton.ca/

Course Requirements: All students must have access to WEB CT as all course related communication will be done via this system. To be accepted as a WEB CT user, you will need a university email account, if you do not already have one.

All students must also have a valid Carleton MacOdrum Library account in order to be able to download the assigned weekly readings from the electronic journals.

Students are expected to attend classes, read the assigned readings and participate in related class discussions, exercises and activities.

Course Organization and Assignments: You will be expected to write two concise summaries (max. 800 words) of a journal article. You will have a choice of four articles from the assigned class readings. Your summary should include the author’s main argument and major supporting points. It should also identify the name of the article, journal, author, geographic region and time period that the reading addresses. The summary is **due at the beginning of class on September 26, 2008 and February 11, 2009.**
Essays: You will also be expected to write two essays of five typewritten pages each, printed on standard paper with one inch margins on each side, in twelve point font. Your first essay must be on a topic related to the colonial period in Latin America and the Spanish or French Caribbean. Your second essay will be on a topic dealing with the national period in Latin America and the Spanish/French Caribbean. The first paper will be due at the beginning of class on November 12, 2008 and the second one on March 6, 2009.

The papers must have either foot or endnotes in Chicago style or in text referencing in MLA style, as well as a bibliography. You must use no fewer than five scholarly secondary sources for your paper. Every effort should be made to present your work in grammatically correct English with few spelling and typographical errors.

[Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. All incidents will be reported. Please see the Carleton Undergraduate Calendar for university regulations on academic offences.]

Midterms: You will have two midterm examinations in class, which will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Questions will cover both the subject matter covered in the class lectures and the assigned weekly readings. The midterms will be administered in class on October 29, 2008 and January 23, 2009.

*There is no Exam during the Formal examination period in December*

Final Exam: You will also write a final exam during the formal examination period.

Evaluation: Precis: 20% (10% each)
Midterms: 30% (15% each)
Essays: 30% (15% each)
Final Exam: 20%

*Students must complete all of the assignments and write the three examinations to pass this course.

** There are no opportunities for extra credit.

Late Policy: There is a four percent per day penalty that will be imposed on work that is handed in late. Also, assignments that are submitted more than two weeks late will be read and the student will receive written feedback but they will not be graded. No electronic submissions will be accepted.
Week 1
Sept. 5- Introduction: What is Latin America?

Week 2
Sept. 10- Americas: Latin American Peoples before 1492
Sept. 12- Aztecs and Incas

Week 3
Sept. 17- African Peoples before 1492
Sept. 19- Medieval Portugal and Spain

Week 4
Sept. 24- Spain and the Mayas and Aztecs
Sept. 26- Spain and the Incas

-1st Precis Due-

Week 5
Oct. 1- Spanish Institutions and Pattern of Conquest
Oct. 3- Colonization of Brazil

Week 6
Oct. 8- Brazil Continued.
Oct.10- University Day- NO CLASSES

**Week 7**  
Oct. 15- The Spanish Colonial Church  
Oct. 17-The Transatlantic Slave Trade  

**Week 8**  
Oct. 22- Spanish Administration of the Colonies; Power and Authority  
Oct. 24- Spanish Administration of the Colonies: Land and Labor  

**Week 9**  
Oct. 29- Midterm  
Oct. 31- Spanish Colonial Society; Racial Purity and Racial Separation  

**Week 10**  
Nov 5- Piracy and Pirates in the Caribbean  
Nov 7- Women in Colonial Latin America  

**Week 11**  
Nov. 12 &14- Pombaline and Bourbon Reforms: Charles III  

-1st Essay Due-  

**Week 12**  
Nov. 19- Rebellions in Spanish America  
Nov. 21- Haiti: Insurrection and Revolt  
Week 13
Nov. 26 & 28 - Patterns of Independence

----------Winter Break- Happy Holidays!----------

Week 14
Jan. 7 - Republicanism and the Legacy of Colonialism
Jan. 9 - Nineteenth Century Latin American Economies and Development

Week 15
Jan. 14 & 16 - Caudillismo and Nationalism

Week 16
Jan. 21 - Positivism
Jan. 23 - MIDTERM

Week 17
Jan. 28 & 30 - The United States in Latin America (cont’d)

Week 18
Feb. 4 & 6 - The Mexican Revolution

Week 19
Feb. 11 & 13 - Twentieth Century Latin American Economy and Development

-2nd Precis Due-
READING WEEK

Week 20
Feb. 25 & 27 - The United States in Latin America in the Twentieth Century

Week 21
Mar. 4 & 6 - Dictatorship and Disappearance

-2nd Essay Due-

Week 22
Mar. 11 & 13 - Haiti

Week 23
Mar. 18 & 20 - Drugs in Latin America

Week 24
Mar. 25-Sendero Luminoso
Mar. 27- Zapatistas

Week 25
Apr. 3- Review
------------------------FINAL EXAM------------------------