

History 304

Modern Latin America Since 1810

Lecturer: Professor Jeremy Adelman
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Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 11-11:50

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30

Preceptors: tba

This course covers the principal themes of Latin American history from the time of the Independence Wars to the present. The main issues to be covered will be the breakdown of the Spanish and Portuguese empires and the emergence of independent republics, integration into the world economy, political change and the struggle for democracy, and the changing pattern of social and gender relations. Broadly speaking, this course is inter-disciplinary and comparative.

Course Format

In this course, there are two lectures and one preceptorial per week. On average, you will be expected to read one book per preceptorial. The lectures, preceptorial and readings are complementary. The lectures are analytical and interpretive. They are not overviews or summaries - that can be acquired from the textbook or references (see below). The readings offer specific interpretations of processes or events which you will tackle in preceptorials. Regular attendance at lectures and preceptorials is essential.

Marking Scheme

Preceptorial participation:	35
Map test:	5
Book Review:	20
Mid-term exam:	15
Final exam:	25

To pass this course, successful completion of all course requirements is necessary. Failure to complete any portion means failure of the course. The exception is for seniors. Seniors will not be required to write the mid-term. Their marking scheme will be as follows:

Preceptorial participation:	35
Map test:	5
Book Review:	20
Final Exam:	40

Participation: Regular attendance is not enough. You should be keeping up with the readings and attending lectures. Moreover, you should be thinking and reflecting on some of the issues raised, so that discussion in preceptorial will be useful and engaging. The mark for this component will be based on preparation for class and contribution to discussion. Specifically, each student will be asked to deliver at least one 5-7 minute oral book report to the rest of the members of the precept. Students should be prepared to discuss the following questions: what is the argument of the book? What sorts of sources does the author use? How does this book contribute to some of the overall themes of the course? In addition, each student will be asked to deliver one critical response on the precept's book report.

Map test: During the third week of classes, a short map test will be held. I will provide an explanation of what you are expected to know two weeks before the test.

Book reviews: You will be asked to one 1,000-word essay that compares at least two books on the syllabus. The essay should not summarize the contents of the book -- we will assume you can do that. Rather, you should provide an analysis of the (1) arguments, (2) evidence, (3) the relationship of the books to the larger themes of the course, and (4) critically compare each of the book's contributions to the field. Above all, this exercise is designed to assess your interpretive skills. If you have any questions, please consult your preceptor or me. There can be no extensions.

Readings

All the books on this syllabus are on reserve in the library. They can also be purchased. The reading marked "P" is in a packet that can be bought at Print-it. These readings will provide the basis for the precept discussions.

There are some reference materials which may be useful. Almost each week recommends chapter readings from Lawrence A. Clayton & Michael L. Conniff, A History of Modern Latin America. The chapters of this book are designed to offer a rough background for each phase or period of Latin American history, and for which two lectures will provide an overview and interpretation. In other words, the Clayton & Conniff book should serve as a useful background reader for the lectures. There are other texts that you are welcome to consult. Of particular use should be Leslie Bethell (ed.), Cambridge History of Latin America, now in nine volumes with up-to-date essays on particular countries and themes in Latin American history. I also urge you to get into the habit of browsing through academic journals. The main journals are:

Hispanic American Historical Review

Journal of Latin American Studies

Bulletin of Latin American Research

Latin American Research Review

The Americas

Latin American Perspectives

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and end of empire

No precept

Readings: Clayton & Conniff, “Colonial Prologue”

Week 2: The Wars of Independence

Readings: C & C, chpts 1-4

David Bushnell (ed.), El Libertador: Writings of Simón Bolívar sections I & II

Week 3 (Feb. 19): The making of Modern Brazil

Readings: C & C sections on Brazil in chpts 3-5 and 9

Sandra Lauderdale Graham, Caetana Says No: Women’s Stories From a Brazilian Slave Society

Week 4: Liberalism in 19th century Spanish America

Readings: C & C, chpts 5, 8-9

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Facundo, pp. 1-128 & 205-250

Week 5: World Market Integration

Readings: C & C, chpts 6-7

Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, pp. 1-92 & 141-202

Week 6: Belle Epoque Latin America (only 1 lecture)

Mid-term exam (optional for Seniors) in class on Thursday

Readings; C & C, chpts 10-11

Steven Topik, “Coffee” (from Topik & Allen Wells, The Second Conquest of Latin America, (P)

Michael Jiménez, “From Plantation to Cup” & Lowell Gudmundson, “Peasant, Farmer, Proletarian: Class Formation in a Smallholder Coffee Economy” from Roseberry (ed.), Coffee, Society and Power (P)

Week 7: Reading Week

Week 8: Modern Worlds

Readings: C & C, chpts 12-15

Elena Poniatowska, Here’s to You Jesusa!

Week 9: From International to National Capitalism

Readings: C & C, chpts 16-18

Nick Cullather, Secret History: The CIA’s Classified Account of its Operations in Guatemala, 1952-1954

Week 10: Cold War and Populism

Readings: C & C, chpts 19-22

Thomas Patterson, Contesting Castro

Week 11: From Revolution to Counter-Revolution

Readings: C & C, chpts 23-24

Margaret Power, Right-Wing Women in Chile, esp. chpts 1-2 & 5-8

Week 12: How to Cope with Dictators

Readings: C & C, chpt 25

Suzanna Hecht & Alexander Cockburn, The Fate of the Forest (P)

*** Essay Due at End of Week**

Week 13: The New Americas

Readings: Ariel Dorfman, Exorcising Terror