

HIST 381
Winter 2012

Latin America, 1750-1910

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Description of the course

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 boundaries within the countries of the region.

Course Evaluations

- Map quiz (10%).
- Take-home Midterm exam (20%).
- Four multiple-choice quizzes. These will include questions from lectures and the assigned readings (10% each, 40% total).
- Final exam (30%).

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 GTFs 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.

-An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor and GTFs. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment-i.e. no talking, eating, chatting, text-messaging, or newspaper reading during lecture. The use of electronic devices is not allowed during class, except for laptops. Students who need to bring a laptop computer to class to take notes 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 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 Tuesday, March 20. DO NOT MAKE PLANS FOR AN EARLY DEPARTURE FOR SPRING BREAK. THERE WILL BE NO EARLY FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE.

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.

- John Chasteen, *Americanos. Latin America's Struggle for Independence* (Oxford University Press, 2008).
- John Lynch, *Argentine Caudillo. Juan Manuel de Rosas* (Scholarly Resources, 2001).
- Sandra Graham, *Caetana Says No. Women's Stories from a Brazilian Slave Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2002).
- Louis A. Pérez, *The War of 1898* (University of North Carolina Press, 1998).

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

01/09 Introduction to the course: The colonial heritage of Latin America

01/11 The second conquest: Bourbon Reforms in late colonial Spanish America

Readings:

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

Week 2

01/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – No class

01/18 MAP QUIZ / Indigenous rebellions and Creole nationalism

Readings:

- Garrett, “His Majesty’s Most Loyal Vassals,” Chasteen, “Independence,” and Lynch, “San Martín” (BB)

Week 3

01/23 The course of Spanish American independence

01/25 QUIZ # 1 / The aftermath of independence: Building the new Nation-states

Readings:

- Chasteen, *Americanos*, all

Week 4

01/30 Caudillos and caudillismo: an overview / Antonio López de Santa Anna

02/01 Juan Manuel de Rosas: Caudillo and Dictator

Reading:

- Lynch, *Argentine Caudillo*, all

Week 5

02/06 The Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

02/08 Quiz # 2 / La Reforma, Foreign Intervention and the Rise of Porfirio Díaz

Readings:

- Chasteen, “Progress,” MacLachlan and Beezley, “Centrifugal Forces,” and MacLachlan and Beezley, “Liberalism Defined” (BB)

Week 6

02/13 Take Home Midterm Due / Chile: Authoritarian rule and political stability

02/15 Peru: Caudillos, Guano, War, and Crisis

Readings:

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

Week 7

02/20 Brazil: From Monarchy to Republic

02/22 Quiz # 3 / Slavery and Abolition in Brazil

Reading:

- Graham, *Caetana Says No*, all.

Week 8

02/27 Sugar and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Cuba

02/29 US, Cuba, and the 1898 Spanish-American War

Reading

- Perez, *The War of 1898*, all.

Week 9

03/05 Argentina and the conquest of the desert

03/07 Quiz # 4 / Order and Progress in Porfirian Mexico

Readings:

- Chasteen, ‘Neocolonialism’ and MacLachlan and Beezley, ‘The Porfiriato’ (BB)

Week 10

03/12 Turn-of-the-century Latin America: Society, Culture, and Politics

03/14 Review for final exam / Optional Make-up quiz

Final Exam: Tuesday, March 20, 10:15