History 241: Colonial Latin America
Semester I, 2003-04

Introduction

As it is widely known, 1492 marked the beginning of the European presence in the New World, the colonial period. This period is crucial in the configuration of Latin American societies because it entails the interaction and collision of peoples from three different continents: the Native Americans, the Africans, and the Europeans. Although the colonial period ended in the early Nineteenth century, in the long run, the construction of Latin American societies is grounded on the colonial experience.

The goal of this class is to introduce students to the variety and complexities of Latin American colonial history. What happened in the New World before 1492? Who lived there? How were these societies organized? How were they conquered? Who were the Spaniards that came to the New World? How did the Spaniards organize the colonial world? How did Indigenous societies contest colonial domination and coercion? How did Africans participate in the colonial world? Why did this era come to an end? In order to answer these questions historically, in this class students will read a selection of books and articles that will provide simultaneously basic information and analytical interpretations. As students will discover over the semester, some readings present a descriptive approach, while others offer more sophisticated argumentations framed within academic debates. The purpose of such combination of readings is to provide a solid background in Colonial Latin American studies, and to generate an intellectual discussion about history and historical explanations in the Latin American context. Also, students will learn from other type of material such as primary sources and movies.

Classes will have two formats, lectures and discussions. Students are expected to assist and participate in both types of classes, bringing questions, ideas, insights and critical thoughts. In the lectures, the instructor will present the general overview of each theme, considering geographic and chronological frames, main events, and
historiographic debates. The discussions will zoom into a specific theme, previously introduced in a lecture, through the analysis of required readings. The success of discussions depends entirely on class participation, looking for a critical dialogue with readings as well as with other students.

**Written Assignments**

This class has two different types of written assignments: a Take Home Exam (5-7 pages), and a Final Exam.

**Take Home Exam:** I will bring the questions on Friday October 10th and the Exam is due on Friday October 17th (typed, font 12, hard copy, electronic submission is not accepted).

**Final Exam on December, 20/03:** Comprehensive exam considering the entire course.

**Grading**

Class Participation: 10%
Medium Length Paper: 45%
Final Exam: 45%

**Readings**

[R] = Required reading for lecture or for discussion section, either if it is a book, a chapter, or a selection from the Xerox packet. The required books will be available at the University Bookstore. The Xerox packet will be available at the Humanities Copy Center. Also, a copy of each will be available at College Library, Reserve Collection.

(Recommended) = suggested for final exam and paper; also, you can use the recommended readings to complete your notes if you skipped a class or if you feel you need more information. This material will be available only in College Library, Reserve Collection, or uploaded on e-Reserve if it is a selection (not at the Univ. Bookstore or Copy Center).

**Required Books**


For general reference (you may follow one of these books over the semester):

SYLLABUS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week # 1
Wednesday, Sept/3:
Presentation of the course, organization and requirements. General introduction to Colonial Latin American History. Geography and Chronological frames. Explanation of the syllabus.

UNIT I: NATIVE AMERICANS, AFRICANS AND SPANIARDS BEFORE THE COLONIAL ERA

Friday, Sept/5: Lecture
Before 1492: Ethnohistory and pre-Columbian overview. Central Mexico.
Hassig, Ross. *Time, History and Belief in Aztec Colonial Mexico* (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2001; recommended).

Week # 2
Monday, Sept/8: Lecture
Before 1492: Ethnohistory and pre-Columbian overview: The Andes.


[R] Stern, Steve. *Peru's Indian Peoples...* (Ch 1: “Pre-Columbian Landscapes”).

Wednesday, Sept/10: **Lecture**
Before 1492: Ethnohistory and pre-Columbian overview. The Frontiers: Mayas, Guaraníes, Diaguitas, and Mapuches.


Friday, Sept/12: **Discussion**
Ethnohistory and pre-Columbian overview: Aztecs and Incas.


[R] Stern, Steve. *Peru's Indian Peoples...* Ch 1.

Week # 3

Monday, Sept/15: **Lecture**
African societies in the Fifteenth century.


Wednesday, Sept/17: **Lecture**


Friday, Sept/19: **Discussion**
Iberian Society.


End of Unit I. Balance and questions.

UNIT II: THE SPANISH CONQUEST OF THE NEW WORLD.
CONQUEST, OTHERNESS AND PARADIGMS

Week # 4
Monday, Sept/22: Lecture
The multiple meanings of 1492.


Wednesday, Sept/24: Lecture
The Spanish Conquest in Mexico: basic chronology and main events. Expeditions, alliances, and wars.


Friday, Sept/26: Discussion
The Conquest of Mexico through Indigenous Eyes.

[R] Leon Portilla, Miguel. Broken Spears (selection TBA)


Week # 5
Monday, Sept/29: Lecture
The Spanish Conquest in the Andes: basic chronology and main events. Conquerors, civil wars, and alliances.

Wednesday, Oct/1: Lecture
The consequences of the Spanish Conquest among Native American societies during the Sixteenth century. Collapse, destructuration, alliances, and plunder economy.

Friday, Oct/3: Discussion
The Vision of the Vanquished.
[R] Stern, Steve. *Peru's Indian Peoples* ... Ch 2.
[R] Wachtel, Nathan *The Vision of the Vanquished: The Spanish Conquest of Peru through Indian Eyes, 1530-1570* Part I, Ch 1; Part II Ch 2.

Monday, Oct/6: No Class (Yom Kippur)

Wednesday, Oct/8: Lecture
Hanke, Lewis *All Mankind is One* (Dekalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1974; recommended).

Friday, Oct/10: Discussion
Conquest, otherness and paradigms (readings plus your insights and comments on the movie).
[R] Stern, Steve. Peru's Indian Peoples ... (Introduction, "Paradigms of the Spanish Conquest").
End of Unit II. Balance and questions. Questions for take home exam. Exam due on Friday October/17.

UNIT III: THE COLONIAL WORLD

a) The Spanish Elite

Week # 7
Monday, Oct/13: Lecture
More than conquistadores: Spanish society in the New World.

Wednesday, Oct/15: Lecture
Elite Women.
[R] Socolow, Susan. The Women of ... (Ch 4: "The Arrival of Iberian Women," and Ch 6: "Elite Women").

Friday, Oct/17: NO MEETING, DEADLINE FOR TAKE HOME EXAM (leave your exam in my mailbox, 4113 Humanities, no later than 4pm).

THE COLONIAL WORLD

b) Indians

Week # 8
Monday, Oct/20: Lecture
The Toledo Reforms. Visitas, Mitas, and Indian labor. Mining and Tributes.
[R] Stern, Steve. Peru's Indian Peoples ... Ch 4: "The Political Economy of Colonialism."
Wednesday, Oct/22: Lecture
Indian societies in market economies. Strategies, Migration and Ethnogenesis.
[R] Stern, Steve. *Peru's Indian Peoples...* (Ch 5: “The Indians and Spanish Justice”).

Friday, Oct/24: Discussion
Responses to colonial coercion: Tributes, migration and collective strategies.

**THE COLONIAL WORLD**
c) Enslaved Africans

Week # 9: Movie screening (date TBA) *The Last Supper*
Monday, Oct/27: Lecture
African Slaves in the Sugar Fields: Brazil and the Caribbean.

Wednesday, Oct/29: Lecture
African resistance: Brazil and the Caribbean.

Friday, Oct/31: Discussion
Slavery and Resistance (readings plus your insights and comments on the movie).
THE COLONIAL WORLD

d) Land Property and Agrarian Transformation

Week # 10
Monday, Nov/3
Lecture: Large Estates in different places. Peasants and Haciendas.
End of Unit III. Balance and questions.

UNIT IV: THE COLONIZATION OF THE SOULS.
RELIGION AND SOCIAL CODES IN THE COLONIAL ERA

Wednesday, Nov/5: Lecture
Honor and Gender in Colonial Society.

Friday, Nov/7: Discussion
Honor and Gender

Week # 11
Monday, Nov/10: Lecture
The colonization of the souls. Evangelization, Jesuits and Franciscans.

Wednesday, Nov/12: Lecture
Christianity and diversity: Inquisition and Extirpation of Idolatries in the New World.


Friday, Nov/14: Discussion
The colonization of the souls. Heresies and Idolatries in the colonial world.


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**Week # 12:**

**Monday, Nov/17: Lecture**
A particular kind of Women: Nuns.


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**Wednesday, Nov/19: Lecture**
A Particular kind of Women: Nuns.
(See list from previous class, plus)


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**Friday, Nov/21: Discussion**
Nuns in Colonial Latin America.


UNIT VI: EPILOGUE.
INDEPENDENCE AND ITS AFTERMATH. COLONIAL LEGACIES

Friday, Dec/5: Lecture
The End of the Colonial Era: The Process of Independence. Basic chronologies and main events. Case studies: The Southern Cone, the Central Andes, and Mexico

Week # 15
Monday, Dec/8: Lecture
[R] Clendinnen, Inga. Ambivalent Conquests ... (“Epilogue: Confusion of Tongues”).
[R] Socolow, Susan. The Women of ... (“Conclusion”).
[R] Stern, Steve Peru’s Indian Peoples ... (Ch 8: “Huamanga’s Colonial Heritage”).

Wednesday, Dec/10: Final Exam Preparation: Review Session
Units I-III (please bring your notes and questions).

Friday, Dec/12: Final Exam Preparation: Review Session
Units IV-VI (please bring your notes and questions).

FINAL EXAM: DECEMBER 20/03 (Room TBA)