Description:

Considered before to be one of the "backwaters" of historical research, where traditional political and military history reigned supreme, the nineteenth century has been emerging as one of the periods in Latin American history with the greatest potential for theoretical and methodological innovation. For the past two decades, an unusually large and creative amount of work has appeared. It has been inspired in the debates around world systems and dependency theory, articulation of modes of production and the transition to capitalism, and more recently on ethnicity, gender, and nation-state formation, and the "new" economic and cultural histories. Much of this literature has also been informed by the desire to illuminate the faces of the common folk, reclaiming their experiences as they confronted the integration of their societies and economies into the modern world capitalist system.

Yet as the contributions of this new literature have taken shape, so have its weaknesses. Authors who attempted to apply frameworks broadly informed by Marxist class analysis were unable fully to explain gender, ethnic, and political/ideological/cultural dimensions. The pioneers of "history from below" have sometimes gone to extremes in their granting of agency to the oppressed, while those who questioned the uncritical celebration of popular resistance tended to move into the complete dismissal of popular agency in history. Most recently, dialogue with cultural studies and postmodern or poststructural approaches has produced a subfield of "new cultural history" sometimes too caught up in its own jargon and assumptions.

With these problems has also come a crisis in theory; some historians now hesitate to reach broader conclusions, while others strongly attack the use of cultural or social theory in history. Where is the field going? Has the dramatic shift in 19th century history from a bulwark of traditionalism to an arena of cultural contestation and innovation simply caused rifts too deep to repair? Through discussion of common and supplementary readings and written critical reviews, we will discuss some initial answers to these complex questions.

Requirements

1) **Active participation in class.** The core of our work in the course will be reading and discussion of abundant materials. Taking the time and energy to contribute to class discussion, whether with a comment, question, doubt, or criticism, is a crucial
component of this. Active participation does not always mean speaking a lot, but it
does mean listening to and engaging other people's ideas and comments, and being
willing to risk asking a "stupid" question in order to move the discussion forward. The
seminar's success depends on it!

2) Three short review essays (7-10 pp.), each taking a weekly topic from one of the three
units as a starting point to explore in more depth the issues emerging from those
readings. In addition to addressing more fully the implications of the assigned readings
themselves, you will choose, in consultation with me, some additional materials,
approximately one extra book and one article. A supplementary bibliography handed
out at the beginning of class with provide a good starting point for your search.

a) The students responsible for the review in each week will also collaborate in

the preparation of a study guide of discussion questions in consultation with me.

This study guide will be posted on our class list by the Tuesday afternoon
preceding class.

b) The review essays will be due no later than two weeks after the discussion of

the topic on which they are based, with the obvious exception of the last two
weeks of class and two weeks before Thanksgiving; you must all choose one of
your topics from each of the three units. Please hand in two copies, so that, with
your permission, I can keep one on file as a resource for students who are
preparing for prelims.

5) Grading: Class participation: 40%

Review Essays: 20% each

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND READINGS:

Week 1- Jan. 20- Introduction

Background Reading: Florencia E. Mallon, "Editor's Introduction," Latin

America's Nineteenth Century History, Special Issue of Latin American


As a general resource, the Cambridge History of Latin America, ed. Leslie

Bethell, Vols. III-V, covers different aspects of the nineteenth century and

provides some additional bibliography. If used advisedly (some authors wrote

new, synthetic essays while others served up "rewarmed" old materials), it can be

quite useful.

ALSO: 1) In the Hispanic American Historical Review, 65:4 (November 1985),
historiographical essays by Eric Van Young, John J. Johnson, and David Bushnell
list and variously analyze the existing historical literature for Mexico/Central America, Latin America, and South America (respectively).


PLEASE NOTE: Read in the above advisedly. It is not meant as an exhaustive list, but only as a set of readings that can begin to familiarize you with the issues in the field. If you are already familiar with these or other similar readings, all the better.

AVAILABILITY OF READINGS: The books assigned are available ONLY at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman, 257-6050, and on 3-hour reserve at the College Library in Helen C. White Hall; they are designated with an * on the syllabus. The articles are part of a Xerox Packet available at the Humanities Copy Center, 1650 Humanities, and on 3-hour reserve in Helen C. White Hall; they are designated with an #.

UNIT I- COLONIAL CRISIS AND THE PROMISES OF INDEPENDENCE, 1780-1870

Week 2- Jan. 27- The Colonial Crisis: Promises and Realities

Reading: *Sarah C. Chambers, From Subjects to Citizens: Honor, Gender and Politics in Arequipa, Peru, 1780-1854 (University Park: Penn State Press, 1999).


Week 3- Feb. 3- Mexico: Possibilities from Below


Week 4- Feb. 10- Andean Republicanisms (I)

Week 5- Feb. 17-Andean Republicanisms (II)

Week 6- Feb. 24-Andean Republicanisms (III)

UNIT II - STRUGGLES OVER CITIZENSHIP, 1850-1910

Week 7- Mar. 3- A Step to the Side: The State of Latin American Economic History
Reading: #Paul Gootenberg, “Between a Rock and a Softer Place: Reflections on Some Recent Economic History of Latin America,” Latin American Research


Week 8- Mar. 10- Alternative Citizenships in the Caribbean


***SPRING BREAK, 11-19 MARCH***

Week 9- Mar. 24- The Public Sphere and Citizenship


Week 10- Mar. 31- Alternative Citizenship in Mexico and the Andes
Reading: * Florenicia E. Mallon, Peasant and Nation: The Making of Postcolonial
Mexico and Peru (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).


UNIT III- LIMITING CITIZENSHIP: RACE, GENDER AND THE NATION, 1880-1930

Week 11- Apr. 7- Citizenship and Abolition


Week 13- Apr. 21- Race, Gender and Colonialism in the Caribbean


Week 14- Apr. 28- Eugenics and Emerging States

Week 15- May 5- Race and Nation in Latin America  

*****REVIEW ESSAYS FOR WEEKS 14 AND 15 DUE LATEST ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH, AT 5:00 P.M.*****
LIST OF READINGS IN XEROX PACKET (Listed in the order assigned)


