

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester 1, 1983-84

History 730

Social History and Political Economy
of Colonial Latin America

Steve J. Stern
5105 Humanities
263-1841/263-1800

Course Description

This graduate seminar highlights landmark books, topics, and debates relevant to the social history and political economy of colonial Latin America. Its reading list and assignments should give us a sense for the contours of the historiography in these fields, and should invite us to share the excitement of recent research. The seminar asks participants not only to analyze particular books, but to gain experience in researching and analyzing historiography.

The instructor begins with four premises:

- 1) The colonial Latin American experience, while important in its own right, is also an inescapable pre-requisite for those seriously interested in the study of post-colonial history. Given the existence of large indigenous populations for whom the "colonial question" remains very much alive, and given the uneven, regionally varied, and often non-linear patterns of change in 19th and 20th century Latin America, problems and issues in colonial social history and political economy resonate into the modern era.
- 2) The distinction between "social history" and "political economy" is a limited one. The actions of social groups, including non-elite people, had an important impact on economic life, and colonial political economy conditioned social life in crucial ways. From this point of view, "social history" and "political economy" are not well understood in isolation of one another.
- 3) Our purpose in seminar is not simply to "cover information," but also, and most especially, to engage debates, explore implications, interpret significances, and sharpen our critical tools as historians. It goes without saying that one cannot perform the latter tasks well without digesting a considerable amount of empirical information.
- 4) In one semester, it is useless to try to touch on all topics or historiographies relevant to colonial Latin America. In the fields of social history and political economy, our reading list contains glaring omissions. Student papers will undoubtedly compensate for some of these. (Note: We are not dealing with the considerable literature on slavery in part because I offer a Comparative World History seminar that studies slavery.) In addition, entire fields are left out. A Latin American historian should know, for example, the rich tradition in intellectual and cultural history associated with Mario Góngora, Lewis Hanke, John Tate Lanning, Irving Leonard, Richard Morse, Edmundo O'Gorman, J. M. Ots Capdequí, John J. Phelan, Silvio Zavala, and others.

Course Assignments and Grading

There are three course requirements: oral participation, a short review essay on assigned readings, and a longer essay based on extra readings.

Course Assignments and Grading (Continued)

Active participation in discussion is fundamental for the success of the seminar, and will count fully 45% towards the final grade. I expect seminar members to enter our meetings prepared to articulate and to defend their critical reflections, to join in the give-and-take and debate which make intellectual discussion rewarding.

The short review essay (ca. 5-8 pages) should be a critical analysis of the week's readings (or a portion of them). Normally, such an essay would provide a close analysis of the author's assumptions and questions; the reasoning, evidence, and method used to develop his or her argument; the author's conclusions and insights, and their validity; and the book's implications (whether the author intended them or not). How much space you devote to each of these topics will of course depend partly on the particular readings you review. This paper counts 15%, and is due at the start of the seminar session devoted to the readings analyzed in the paper. You may choose any of the readings assigned for Weeks 2-9 for this paper.

The longer essay (ca. 25 pages) will analyze critically either the historiography of a particular field in colonial Latin American history (example: the literature on women in Spanish America), or a specialized topic that requires research in historiographically significant works (example: comparative hacienda history of the central valleys of Chile and Mexico). In either case, I would expect the author to identify, from a much larger bibliographical list, the five or six most significant works related to the paper topic. In addition, the author should write a few comments (5-6 lines) on the historiographical significance of each of these works, and append the annotations to the bibliography. Students will present and debate these "state of the literature" and "special topics" papers during Weeks 12-15 of the semester. The papers will count 40% towards the final grade.

Please note that I will not grant "Incomplete" grades except in cases of severe family or medical emergencies.

Schedule

Week 1. Introduction. August 31.

Organization meeting. No assigned readings for discussion. Students unfamiliar with colonial Latin American history are advised to read Charles Gibson, Spain in America (New York, 1966), for background. This little text is also a good way for more experienced students to brush up.

Week 2. The "World-System" and Its Critics. Sept. 7.

Reading: Immanuel Wallerstein, The Modern World-System. Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century (New York, 1976).

Robert Brenner, "The Origins of Capitalist Development: A Critique Neo-Smithian Marxism," New Left Review, 104 (July--Aug., 1977), 25-92.

Maurice Dobb, Studies in the Development of Capitalism (rev. ed., New York, 1963), 1-32.

Week 2. (Continued)

Reading: Sidney Mintz, "The So-Called World System: Local Initiative and Local Response," Dialectical Anthropology, 2:4 (Nov., 1977), 253-270.

Stuart Schwartz, "Indian Labor and New World Plantations: European Demands and Indian Responses in Northeastern Brazil," American Historical Review, 83:1 (Feb., 1978), 43-79.

Recomm.: Dobb, Studies.

Paul Sweezy et al., The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism (Verso ed., London, 1978).

Andre Gunder Frank, Capitalism and Underdevelopment in Latin America: Historical Studies of Chile and Brazil (rev. ed., New York, 1969).

Ernesto Laclau, "Feudalism and Capitalism in Latin America," New Left Review, 67 (May--June, 1971), 19-38.

Brooke Larson, "Shifting Views of Colonialism and Resistance," Radical History Review, 27 (1983), 3-20.

Ralph Davis, The Rise of the Atlantic Economies (Ithaca, 1973).

J. H. Elliott, Imperial Spain, 1469-1716 (1963).

Week 3. Foundations of Society: the Colonizers. Sept. 14.

Reading: James Lockhart, Spanish Peru. A Colonial Society, 1532-1560 (Madison, 1968).

José Miranda, "La función económica del encomendero en los orígenes del régimen colonial de Nueva España (1525-1531)," Anales del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Vol. 2 (1941-46), 421-462.

Asunción Lavrin and Edith B. Couturier, "Dowries and Wills: A View of Women's Socioeconomic Role in Colonial Guadalajara and Puebla, 1640-1790," Hispanic American Historical Review, 59:2 (1978), 280-304.

Recomm.: James Lockhart, "The Social History of Colonial Latin America: Evolution and Potential," Latin American Research Review, 7:1 (Spring, 1972), 6-45.

Lesley B. Simpson, The Encomienda in New Spain: The Beginnings of Spanish Mexico (rev. ed., Berkeley, 1950).

Philip Wayne Powell, Soldiers, Indians & Silver (Berkeley, 1952).

Mario Góngora, Encomenderos y estancieros: estudios acerca de la constitución social aristocrática de Chile después de la conquista, 1580-1660 (Santiago de Chile, 1970).

Mario Góngora, Studies in the Colonial History of Spanish America (Cambridge, 1975).

Ann M. Pescatello, Power and Pawn: The Female in Iberian Families, Societies, and Cultures (Westport, CT, 1976).

Asunción Lavrin, "In search of the colonial woman in Mexico: the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries," in Lavrin, ed., Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives (Westport, CT, 1978), 23-59.

Week 4. Foundations of Society: the Colonized. Sept. 21.

Reading: Steve J. Stern, Peru's Indian Peoples and the Challenge of Spanish Conquest: Huamanga to 1640 (Madison, 1982).

Karen Spalding, "Kurakas and Commerce: A Chapter in the Evolution of Andean Society," Hispanic American Historical Review, 53:4 (Nov., 1973), 581-599.

Karen Spalding, "Social Climbers: Changing Patterns of Mobility among the Indians of Colonial Peru," Ibid., 50:4 (Nov., 1970), 645-664.

Recomm.: Charles Gibson, Tlaxcala in the Sixteenth Century (2nd ed., Stanford, 1967).

Charles Gibson, The Aztecs Under Spanish Rule: A History of the Indians of the Valley of Mexico, 1519-1810 (Stanford, 1964).

Elman R. Service, Spanish-Guaraní Relations in Early Colonial Paraguay (Ann Arbor, 1954).

Elman R. Service, "Indian-European Relations in Colonial Latin America," American Anthropologist, 57 (June, 1955), 411-426.

Karen Spalding, De indio a campesino: cambios en la estructura social del Perú colonial (Lima, 1974). Includes helpful review essay on Indian social history, originally published in English in 1972 in Latin American Research Review.

Juan and Judith Villamarín, Indian Labor in Mainland Colonial Spanish America (Newark, Delaware, 1975).

Nathan Wachtel, The Vision of the Vanquished: The Spanish Conquest of Peru through Indian Eyes, 1530-1570 (New York, 1977).

Week 5. Demography, Depression, and Mining: An Evolving Debate. Sept. 28.

Reading: Woodrow Borah, New Spain's Century of Depression (Berkeley, 1951).

P. J. Bakewell, Silver Mining and Society in Colonial Mexico, Zacatecas, 1546-1700 (Cambridge, 1971), skim 1-25, 114-149, read 181-201, 221-236.

D. A. Brading and Harry E. Cross, "Colonial Silver Mining: Mexico and Peru," Hispanic American Historical Review, 52:4 (Nov., 1972), 545-579.

Recomm.: Sherburne F. Cook and Woodrow Borah, Essays in Population History: Mexico and the Caribbean (3 vols., Berkeley, 1974-1980).

Woodrow Borah and Sherburne F. Cook, The Aboriginal Population of Central Mexico on the Eve of Spanish Conquest (Berkeley, 1963).

David Henige, "On the Contact Population of Hispaniola: History as Higher Mathematics," Hispanic American Historical Review, 58:2 (May, 1978), 217-237.

Nicolás Sánchez-Albornoz, Indios y tributas en el Alto Perú (Lima, 1978).

Richard Boyer, "Mexico in the Seventeenth Century: Transition of a Colonial Society," Hispanic American Historical Review, 57:3 (Aug., 1977), 455-478.

- Week 5. Recomm.: J. I. Israel, Race, Class and Politics in Colonial Mexico, 1600-1670 (Oxford, 1975). See also Israel's article in Past & Present, 1970s.
- John J. TePaske and Herbert Klein, "The Seventeenth-Century Crisis in New Spain: Myth or Reality?" Past & Present, 90 (Feb., 1980), 116-134.
- Guillermo Lohmann Villena, Las minas de Huancavelica en los siglos XVI y XVII (Seville, 1949).
- Enrique Tandeter, "Forced and Free Labour in Late Colonial Potosí," Past & Present, 93 (Nov., 1981), 98-136.
- Week 6. Colonial Responses to Boom and Bust. Oct. 5.
- Reading:
- all of class Eric Wolf and Sidney Mintz, "Haciendas and Plantations in Middle America and the Antilles," Social and Economic Studies, 6:3 (1957), 380-412.
- 1/3 of class Murdo J. MacLeod, Spanish Central America: A Socioeconomic History, 1520-1720 (Berkeley, 1973).
- 1/3 of class Enrique Florescano, Precios del maíz y crisis agrícolas en México (1708-1810) (Mexico, 1969).
- Brooke Larson, "Rural Rhythms of Class Conflict in Eighteenth-Century Cochabamba," Hispanic American Historical Review, 60:3 (Aug., 1980), 407-430.
- 1/3 of class Mario Góngora, Origen de los inquilinos de Chile central (2nd ed., Santiago de Chile, 1974).
- Recomm.: Marcello Carmagnani, Les mécanismes de la vie économique dans une société coloniale. Le Chili 1680-1830 (Paris, 1973).
- R. Romano, Una economía colonial: Chile en el siglo XVIII (Buenos Aires, 1965).
- R. Romano, "Movimiento de los precios y desarrollo económico: el caso de Sudamérica en el siglo XVIII," Desarrollo Económico, 1-2 (Buenos Aires, April--Sept., 1963), 31-43.
- Enrique Tandeter and Nathan Wachtel, "Conjonctures inverses. Le mouvement des prix a Potosí pendant le XVIIIe siècle," Annales E-S-C (Paris, 1983). I have a Spanish copy available for loan.
- Week 7. Landed Estates as Economic Enterprise and Social Institution. Oct. 12.
- Reading:
- all of class Magnus Mörner, "The Spanish-American Hacienda: A Survey of Recent Research and Debate," Hispanic American Historical Review, 53:2 (May, 1973), 183-216.
- 1/2 of class Pablo Macera, "Feudalismo colonial americano: el caso de las haciendas peruanas," in Macera, Trabajos de historia (4 vols., Lima, 1977), 3: 139-227.
- Nicolas P. Cushner, Farm and Factory: The Jesuits and the Development of Agrarian Capitalism in Colonial Quito, 1600-1767 (Albany, 1982).
- Karen Spalding, "Hacienda-Village Relations in Andean Society to 1830," Latin American Perspectives, 2:1 (Spring, 1975), 107-121.

Week 7. Reading:

- 1/2 of Francois Chevalier, Land and Society in Colonial Mexico: The Great Hacienda, trans. by Alvin Eustis (Berkeley, 1963).
- William B. Taylor, "Landed Society in New Spain: A View from the South," Hispanic American Historical Review, 54:3 (August, 1974), 387-413.
- David A. Brading, "Government and Elite in Late Colonial Mexico," Ibid., 53:3 (Aug., 1973), 389-414.
- Recomm.: Jean Borde and Mario Góngora, Evolución de la propiedad rural en el Valle de Puange (2 vols., Santiago de Chile, 1956).
- D. A. Brading, Haciendas and Ranchos in the Mexican Bajío: León, 1700-1860 (Cambridge, 1978).
- Gibson, Aztecs, 220-334.
- Herman W. Konrad, A Jesuit Hacienda in Colonial Mexico: Santa Lucía, 1576-1767 (Stanford, 1981).
- James Lockhart, "Encomienda and Hacienda: The Evolution of the Great Estate in the Spanish Indies," Hispanic American Historical Review, 49:3 (Aug., 1969), 411-429.
- William B. Taylor, Landlord and Peasant in Colonial Oaxaca (Stanford, 1972).
- Eric Van Young, Hacienda and Market in Eighteenth-Century Mexico: The Rural Economy of the Guadalajara Region, 1675-1820 (Berkeley, 1980).
- Eric Van Young, forthcoming article in Latin American Research Review on historiography of colonial Mexican hacienda (1983).

Week 8. State, Village, and Plebe: Resistant "Subcultures." Oct. 19.

- Reading: William B. Taylor, Drinking, Homicide and Rebellion in Colonial Mexican Villages (Stanford, 1979).
- James Lockhart, "Views of Corporate Self and History in Some Valley of Mexico Towns: Late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries," in George A. Collier et al., eds., The Inca and Aztec States, 1400-1800: Anthropology and History (New York, 1982), 367-393.
- Irene Silverblatt, "Andean Women Under Spanish Rule," in Mona Etienne and Eleanor Leacock, eds., Women and Colonization: Anthropological Perspectives (New York, 1980), 149-185.
- Recomm.: Patrick J. Carroll, "Mandinga: The Evolution of a Mexican Runaway Slave Community, 1735-1827," Comparative Studies in Society and History, 19 (1977), 488-505.
- Gibson, Aztecs, passim.
- Steve J. Stern, "The Struggle for Solidarity: Class, Culture, and Community in Highland Indian America," Radical History Review, 27 (1983), 21-45.

- Week 8. Recomm.: Enrique Tandeter, "La producción como actividad popular: 'ladrones de minas' en Potosí," Nova Americana, 4 (1981), 43-65.
- Eric Wolf, Sons of the Shaking Earth (Chicago, 1959).
- Eric Wolf, "The Mexican Bajío in the Eighteenth Century," Tulane Univ. Middle Amer. Research Institute, Publication 17 (New Orleans, 1957), 177-199.
- Week 9. Race, Class, and the Colonial System: Some Approximations. Oct. 26.
- Reading:
- 1/2 of class Enrique Semo, Historia del capitalismo en México: los orígenes, 1521-1763 (Mexico, 1973).
- 1/2 of class Lyle N. McAlister, "Social Structure and Social Change in New Spain," Hispanic American Historical Review, 43:3 (Aug., 1963), 349-370.
- John K. Chance and William B. Taylor, "Estate and Class in a Colonial City: Oaxaca in 1792," Comparative Studies in Society and History, 19 (Oct., 1977), 454-487. See also the critique by Robert McCaa, et al., in Ibid., 21 (1979).
- Patricia Seed, "Social Dimensions of Race: Mexico City, 1753," Hispanic American Historical Review, 62:4 (Nov., 1982), 569-606.
- Magnus Mörner, "Economic Factors and Stratification in Colonial Spanish America with Special Regard to Elites," Ibid., 63:2 (May, 1983), 335-369.
- Recomm.: Carlos Sempat Assadourian, El sistema de la economía colonial: mercado interno, regiones y espacio económico (Lima, 1982).
- Ciro F.S. Cardoso and Héctor Pérez Brignoli, Historia económica de América Latina (Barcelona, 1979).
- John K. Chance, Race and Class in Colonial Oaxaca (Stanford, 1978).
- Modos de producción en América Latina (Córdoba, Argentina, 1973).
- Verena Martinez-Alier, Marriage, Class and Colour in Nineteenth-Century Cuba: A Study of Racial Attitudes and Sexual Values in a Slave Society (Cambridge, 1974).
- Richard M. Morse, "Toward a Theory of Spanish American Government," Journal of the History of Ideas, 15:1 (Jan., 1954), 71-93. Cf. his El espejo de Próspero: un estudio de la dialéctica del nuevo mundo (Mexico, 1982).
- Week 10. The Bourbon Reforms and the Crisis of the State. Nov. 2.
- Reading: Stanley J. Stein and Barbara H. Stein, The Colonial Heritage of Latin America: Essays on Economic Dependence in Perspective (New York, 1970)
- John L. Phelan, "Authority and Flexibility in the Spanish Imperial Bureaucracy," Administrative Science Quarterly, 5:1 (June, 1960), 47-65.
- Stuart B. Schwartz, "Magistracy and Society in Colonial Brazil," Hispanic American Historical Review, 50:4 (Nov., 1970), 715-730.
- Oscar Cornblit, "Society and Mass Rebellion in Eighteenth-Century Peru and Bolivia," in Raymond Carr, ed., Latin American Affairs, St. Anthony's Papers No. 22 (London, 1970), 9-44.

- Week 10. Recomm.: David A. Brading, Miners and Merchants in Bourbon Mexico, 1763-1810 (Cambridge, 1971). Also, "Government and Elite" (see Week 7), 389-414.
- J. R. Fisher, Government and Society in Colonial Peru: The Intendant System, 1784-1814 (London, 1970).
- Jürgen Golte, Repartos y rebeliones. Túpac Amaru y las contradicciones del sistema colonial (Lima, 1978).
- Brian R. Hamnett, Politics and Trade in Southern Mexico, 1750-1821 (Cambridge, 1971).
- Kenneth R. Maxwell, Conflicts and Conspiracies: Brazil & Portugal, 1750-1808 (Cambridge, 1973).
- John L. Phelan, The People and the King: The Comunero Revolution in Colombia, 1781 (Madison, 1978).

Week 11. The Independence Wars. Nov. 9.

Reading: John Lynch, The Spanish-American Revolutions, 1808-1826 (New York, 1973).

Recomm.: Jorge I. Domínguez, Insurrection or Loyalty: The Breakdown of the Spanish American Empire (Cambridge, MA, 1980). Cf. the review by George Reid Andrews in Radical History Review, 27 (1983).

Richard Graham, Independence in Latin America (New York, 1972).

Hugh M. Hamill, Jr., The Hidalgo Revolt (Gainesville, 1966).

R. A. Humphreys and John Lynch, eds., The Origins of the Latin American Revolutions, 1808-1826 (New York, 1965).

Doris Ladd, The Mexican Nobility at Independence, 1780-1826 (Austin, 1976).

Peggy K. Liss, Atlantic Empires: The Network of Trade and Revolution, 1713-1826 (Baltimore, 1983).

A. J. R. Russell-Wood, From Colony to Nation: Essays on the Independence of Brazil (Baltimore, 1975).

Weeks 12-15. Nov. 16--Dec. '7.

Presentation and discussion of student essays.