



Madrid
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
THE AMERICAN JESUIT UNIVERSITY IN SPAIN

Course Syllabus-Fall 2013

Course: HIST-493, Special Topics: History of Colonial Latin America

Credits: 3. Time: TR 9:30-10:45

Professor: Francisco J. García-Serrano, Ph.D.

E-mail: fgarcias@slu.edu. Office hours: TR 8:30-9:30, 10:45-12:30, and 15:45-16:15. SIH, 3rd floor, room 7.

Textbooks

Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*. Oxford University Press. Sixth Edition (2007).

Bernal Díaz, *The Conquest of New Spain*. Penguin Books, 1963.

Reserved: John Lynch, *The Spanish American Revolutions, 1808-1826*. Norton, 1988 (2 copies on reserve in the library)

Reader: Additional reading material will be provided by the instructor available at: <http://garciaserrano.pbworks.com>

I. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The main goal of the course is that students gain a better understanding of the internal historical evolution of Latin America during the colonial period. The course is designed to address and analyze key historical issues pertaining to the History of Latin America with a critical approach. During the course the students will learn to pay special attention to the socio-economic, political, and religious and cultural aspects which shaped Latin American civilization between the sixteenth and the nineteenth centuries.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The history of Latin America will be analyzed from the medieval Iberian background and the pre-Colombian civilizations to the independence movements. Subjects covered include the Indian cultures of the Maya, Aztec and Inca empires, the voyages of exploration and discovery, the Hispanic conquest, the process of colonization, social structures, colonial institutions, economic organizations and the role of the Catholic Church.

III. GRADING AND CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is compulsory during discussion sessions; more than **two** unjustified absences will lower the final grade. **Participation** in class will be highly encouraged and it will also be reflected in the final grade. Interaction among students and with the instructor is vital to the over-all success of the course as well as to receiving a good final grade. Class participation and presentations are 30 percent of the final grade. This means that anyone who is frequently absent cannot expect a passing grade. Active and prepared participation can bring a B grade up to an A, while lackluster attendance or participation can drop it to a C or even fail the course. Individual and group **presentations** (about 15-20 minutes each) will be also required. Some lectures will be conducted at the Museo de América and can be useful to prepare one presentation.

*** Please be on time for class: if you are systematically tardy you will not be allowed to enter the classroom and you will fail the course.**

Writing: Each student **must consult with the instructor** to select a suitable topic in which he/she will do additional reading and on which he/she will **write an upper division research paper** (about 24pages). These topics may be in any area of the history of Latin America in the period covered. A serious review of a significant work is an acceptable paper but it should involve a critical interpretation of a historical problem. **Late papers will drop one letter-grade for each working day they are late**, except in the case of medical or family emergencies that are communicated to me before the paper is due.

There will also be a **midterm examination** consisting of essay questions designed to test the understanding of

historical issues. The exam will be based on the lectures, textbooks, required readings, and issues discussed in class. The final grade will be weighted approximately as follows:

Midterm exam:	30%
Participation and Presentations:	30%
Term paper:	40%
Total:	100%
Grading Scale:	
93-100	A 73-76 C+
89-92	A- 69-72 C
85-88	B+ 65-68 C-
81-84	B 60-64 D
77-80	B- 0-59 F
Dates:	
Add/Drop period ends September 17	
Last Day to change to audit/pass-no pass option, October 2	
Midterm: October 15	
Paper Topic due October 17	
Last day to DROP a class and receive a “W”, November 4	
Paper outline due December 3	
Final paper due December 12	
Last day of classes December 13	

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction. Organization of the course. Main topics covering the colonial history of Latin America.

2. Medieval Heritage. The Iberian Background. Amerindian Civilizations.

Homework: Study the maps of the Iberian Peninsula and America, both physical and political. Read Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 1.

3. The Conquest of the Caribbean and Mexico.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 2 (pages 52-60). Bernal Díaz (pages 1-106).

4. The Conquest of South America.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 2 (pages 61-92). Bernal Díaz (pages 107-215).

5. The Spanish Colonial Administration.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 3 (pages 93-106). Bernal Díaz (pages 216-307).

6. Church and Faith in Colonial Latin America.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 3 (pages 106-122). Bernal Díaz (pages 308-end).

Midterm Exam: October 15 (Tuesday).

The individual and group presentations will be scheduled after exam.

7. The Spanish Labor System.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 4

8. The Colonial Economy.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 5

9. Society and Race in the Indies.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 6

10. The Development of Brazil.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 3

11. The Bourbon Reforms.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 9

12. The Origins of Independence. The Independence of South America. The Independence of Mexico and Central America.

Homework: Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 9

V. ACADEMIC HONESTY

Please note that, as a student in this course, you are required to adhere to the College of Arts & Sciences' Policy on Academic Honesty. Cheating, falsification, and plagiarism are strictly forbidden. Any violation of this policy will result in an F for the pertinent academic exercise. A detailed statement of the policy may be found at <http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>.

VI. DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (Padre Rubio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

VII. BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY CONTAINING ADDITIONAL READING.

Bannon, John F (ed.), *Indian Labor in the Spanish Indies*. Boston. 980.01 BAN.

Bourne, Edward Gaylord, *Spain in America, 1450-1580*. Barnes Noble, 1962. 980.01 BOU.

Boxer, C.R., *The Golden Age of Brazil, 1695-1750*. 981.01 BOX.

Clendinnen, Inga, *Ambivalent Conquest. Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan*. Cambridge U.P., 1988. 972.6502 CLE.

Elliott, John H. *Imperial Spain*. Penguin. 946.04 ELL.

Gibson, Charles (ed.) *The Spanish Tradition in America*. Harper Torchbooks. 980.01 GIB.

Greenblatt, Stephen (ed.), *New World Encounters*. Berkeley: U.C.Press, 1993. 970.01 GRE.

-----, *Marvelous Possessions*. Chicago: U. Ch. Press, 1991. 970.015 GRE.
Lynch, John, *Spain 1516-1598*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1991. 946.04 LYN.
-----, *The Hispanic World in Crisis and Change*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1994. 946.05 LYN.
Madariaga, Salvador de. *The Rise of the Spanish American Empire*. New York: Free Press, 1965. 980 MAD.
Morley, Sylvanus G, *The Ancient Maya*. Stanford U. P., 1968. 972.01 MOR.
Mörner, Magnus, *Race Mixture in the History of Latin America*. Boston: Little Brown, 1967. 980 MOR
Parry, J. H., *The Discovery of South America*. London: Paul Elek, 1979. 980.01 PAR.
-----, *The Spanish Seaborne Empire*. Berkeley: U.C. Press, 1990. 980 PAR.
Prescott, William H., *The Conquest of Mexico*. New York: Heritage Press, 1989. 972.02 PRE.
Vaillant, George C., *Aztecs of Mexico*. New York, 1050. 972.01 VAI.
White, J. M., *Cortés and the Downfall of the Aztec Empire*. New York: Carroll Graf, 1989. 972.02 WHI.