

History 261

Latin American History: The Colonial Experience

Fall, 2010

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Course Times: AB-1: Tuesdays, 8:30 – 11:20 a.m., C1427
AB-2: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. – 2:20 p.m., C1427

Course Description: This course surveys the colonial era in Latin American history. We begin by considering the broader pre-Columbian and medieval cultural and historical context, focusing on the complex societies and states of the New World—the Maya, Aztecs, and Inkas—and of the Old—the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. We then look at Columbus' initial voyages, at colonization in the Caribbean, and at the European invasion of the mainland. We go on to discuss the nature of colonial rule, its ecological impact, and the significant role of the church. We examine colonial economic organization, including forms of forced and free labour that had a major impact on indigenous populations, as well as the origins and development of African slavery. The course places particular emphasis on understanding and interpreting colonial life; we analyze in detail questions regarding status, occupation, ethnicity, honour, gender, sexuality, marriage, and the family. In the final few weeks we focus on the impact of late-colonial political and economic reforms and, lastly, on the wars of independence in the early nineteenth century, which ultimately led to the formation of Latin American nation-states.

Course Format: Typically we'll meet for a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial weekly.

Course Assignments and Grading:

Final Exam	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Paper—Analysis of Primary Sources	35%
Participation in Tutorial Discussions	10%

Required Texts:

Boyer, Richard, and Geoffrey Spurling, eds. *Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550–1850*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Burkholder, Mark A., and Lyman L. Johnson. *Colonial Latin America*. Seventh ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Johnson, Lyman, and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds. *The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1998.

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