

HUNTER COLLEGE
The City University of New York
History Department

Early History of Latin America	Class Hours: Tue / Fri, 12:45PM - 2:00PM Tue / Fri, 2:10PM - 3:25PM Room: W 508
Instructor: Mila Burns Email: mn290@hunter.cuny.edu	Office Hours: Tue, 11:00AM – 12:30PM or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course surveys the diversity of Latin America as a complex combination of diverse peoples and cultures with an increasing presence in the United States. The course examines the settlement of indigenous societies before European arrival, and the impact of conquest and colonization in the shaping of multicultural societies. Students will investigate and debate how such experiences can be used as a framework to understand the current dynamics with Latin America, the United States, and Europe since then. We will place particular emphasis on the discussion of social structures, ethnicity, race, and gender in the analysis of the swiping inequalities that affect most of these societies today. The readings illustrate case studies that examine a wide range of topics – from ecology to food production, kinship and marriage, medical and religious beliefs, and artistic expressions. Urbanization, the economy, and the history of social stratification in the continent are also instrumental on the understanding of current societies. Furthermore, the course explores ways in which intense migration and transnationalism have generated new notions of Latin American and Latino identity in the United States today.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)	Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)
1. Develop knowledge and awareness of the historical, cultural, and geographic diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean.	1. Students will read and write assignments on these historical, cultural and geographic processes.
2. Learn to discuss and evaluate the historical processes that explain the current dynamics of these societies within the region, with the US, Europe, and the rest of the world.	2. Students will study historical processes and debate them in class and in weekly blog postings.
3. Use critically the concept of 'core area' and area studies.	3. Students will identify core areas of the world and criteria to classify societies into these areas.
4. Identify common elements of societies in this region as well as differences among each other.	4. Students will use maps and take quizzes to develop a clear understanding of these elements.
5. Compare and contrast historical and social processes in this region versus other areas of the world.	5. Class discussion and written assignments.

General Education Goals that will be covered and assessed in this course:	Measurements
Communication Skills	Students will write, read, listen and respond to the information presented in class. In their written and oral assignments students will be required to apply critical thinking skills constantly.
Social and Behavioral Sciences	Through the reading and comprehension of class material, students will become familiar with the major cultural, social and historical processes that define this geographic and political region of the world. Written evaluations will measure this new knowledge.

College Attendance Policy:

Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted.

If you arrive late you will be marked absent. Excused absences are those that involve a medical or family emergency or the observance of a religious holiday, however, students are expected to provide proof of said emergency or to notify the instructor in advance of an absence for religious reasons so that arrangements for missed work can be made.

Please STORE YOUR MOBILE PHONE, TABLET, AND LAPTOP DURING CLASS.

Accommodations For Students With Disabilities:

In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation. For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call [\(212\) 772-4857](tel:2127724857) /or TTY [\(212\) 650-3230](tel:2126503230).

Hunter College Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. For full policy on plagiarism, please consult the History Department website

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/history/departmental-policy-on-plagiarism/>

COURSE TEXTBOOK AND READINGS: Please buy the following required book:

Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, Colonial Latin America, Ninth Edition (Oxford U Press, 2-15); ISBN: 978-0-19-934048-4 (Textbook page numbers listed in the syllabus refer to this edition; follow Chapter numbers and sub-headings if using an older edition). This is the main textbook, used in every class.

Note: Primary sources and all other readings will be available on the blog, Blackboard and/or on Electronic Reserves (in the library website).

GRADING POLICY: Evaluation & Requirements of Students

Attendance and Participation	20%
Blog	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

BLOG: All students are required to write a post (300 - 400 words) about the assignments every week. Half of the class will post by Monday, 5pm (the day before the class in which the content will be discussed); the other half will post by Thursday, 5pm at the website <https://earlylatamfall2015.wordpress.com>. Find the date of the assignment, click on "Leave a comment," write your post, your email and name, and send it. Groups will be assigned in the first day of class.

MIDTERM EXAM: All students will be required to do a midterm exam. It will take place on October 6, during class. There are no make-up exams and no exceptions will be made.

FINAL EXAM: All students will be required to do a final exam. It will take place on December 15, during class. There are no make-up exams and no exceptions will be made. The content of the final exam *does not* include the content of the midterm exam.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

Week # / Topic	Date	Assignments
1. Introduction: Latin America and the Caribbean	Friday, Aug 28	
2. Empires before the Empire	Tue, Sep 1	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 1, "America, Iberia, and Africa" (1-32)
	Fri, Sep 4	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 1, "America, Iberia, and Africa" (32-47) + Blood and Fire (ER)
3. Society and Culture Before the Europeans	Tue, Sep 8	Shawn William Miller, <i>An Environmental History of Latin America</i> , Chapter 1 + Burns, <i>The Marvels of the Aztec Capital</i> (ER) + Lunenfeld, <i>The Assault on Peru</i>
	Fri, Sep 11 (Visit to The Metropolitan Museum)	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 2, "The Age of Conquest" (50-68) + Alfred W. Crosby, <i>The Columbian Exchange</i> , excerpts (ER)
4. The Encounter, Colonialism, and Resistance	Tue, Sep 15 – NO CLASS	
	Fri, Sep 18	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 2, "The Age of Conquest" (68-88)
5. Religion and State Structure	Tue, Sep 22 – NO CLASS	
	Fri, Sep 26	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 3, "Ruling New World Empires" (91-119)
6. Colonial Economy	Tue, Sep 29	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 5, "Production, Exchange, and Defense" (154-172)
	Fri, Oct 2	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 5, "Production, Exchange, and Defense" (172-189) + Sweet and Nash (ER)
7. Race, Ethnicity, and Social Structure	Tue, Oct 6	MIDTERM EXAM
	Fri, Oct 9	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 6, "The Social Economy" (191-213)

8. Slavery and Labor	Tue, Oct 13 – VISITING LECTURER Fri, Oct 16	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 4, “Population and Labor” (122-142) Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 4, “Population and Labor” (142-151) + Sandra Graham, excerpts (ER)
9. Cultural Constructions of Gender and Sexuality	Tue, Oct 20 Fri, Oct 23	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 7, “The Family and Society” (216-230) Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 7, “The Family and Society” (230-236) + Ruth Bear, <i>Sex and Sin, Witchcraft and the Devil in Late Colonial Mexico</i> (ER)
10. Life in the City	Tue, Oct 27 Fri, Oct 30	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 8, “Living in an Empire” (239-255) Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 8, “Living in an Empire” (256-277)
11. Expansion and Reform	Tue, Nov 3 Fri, Nov 6	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 9, “Imperial Expansion” (282-291) + Slave Workers and the Diamond Washings of Minas Gerais (ER) Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 9, “Imperial Expansion” (291-303)
12. Empire in Crisis	Tue, Nov 10 Fri, Nov 13	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 10, “The Era of Caroline Reforms” (306-319) + José Martí, <i>Our America</i> (ER) Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 10, “The Era of Caroline Reforms” (319-336) + Pamela Voekel, <i>Peeking in the Palace</i> (ER)
13. Wars of Independence	Tue, Nov 17 Fri, Nov 20	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 11, “Crisis and Political Revolution” (339-353) Conrad, <i>A Slave’s View of Slavery</i> (ER) + Sweet and Nash (ER)
14. This land is my land	Tue, Nov 24 Fri, Nov 27 – NO CLASS	Charles Walker, <i>Smoldering Ashes</i> (ER)
15. Independence and National Identity	Tue, Dec 1	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 12, “From Empire to Independence” (355-369)

	Fri, Dec 4	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 12, "From Empire to Independence" (369-375) + Huffington Post - <i>19 Reasons Latin Americans Come to the U.S. that have nothing to do with the American Dream</i>
16. What now?	Tue, Dec 8 Fri, Dec 11	Burkholder/ Johnson, Ch 13, "Epilogue" (378-388) Review Session for Final Exam
	Tue, Dec 15	FINAL EXAM

*Electronic Resources will be available on the blog and on Blackboard.