

History 271: Survey of Latin American History
Fall 2014
TR 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
Robinson Hall B201

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Office hours: Drop-in (no appt. necessary) on Tuesdays 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm or other times by appointment.

This course examines the history of colonial Spanish and Portuguese America from the pre-contact civilizations of the Americas to independence in the early 19th century. Specific topics that will be studied include the wars of conquest; the ecological, cultural and economic effects of contact among Europeans, Africans, and indigenous inhabitants of the Americas; colonial political structures; and labor systems including slavery.

Assignments and grading:

- 1) Class participation (20% of the final grade). Participation will be measured by:
 - a) Involvement in class discussions
 - b) Completion of in-class assignments. You must attend class regularly in order to participate. If you are uneasy about talking in class please speak with me and we can arrange another way to show your participation. We will also strategize about trying to participate in discussions. Complete the readings by Tuesday of each week and arrive in class ready to discuss them.
 - c) Completion of three primary source sheets over the course of the semester. The template is appended to the end of this syllabus and we will discuss it in depth (so don't worry if you don't understand it at the beginning). I encourage you to fill them out for every primary source you read, but you are not required to do so. However, I would like you to fill one out and hand it in three times over the course of the semester. You may choose when to do these.
- 2) Two 4-5 page papers responding to a question (20% each)
- 3) Midterm exam (20%). This exam will have essay and multiple choice questions and will cover all material up to the time of the exam.
- 4) Final exam (20%). This exam will have essay and multiple choice questions and will be cumulative.

Class policies:

- 1) You are expected to arrive in class on time and stay for the entire class period. If you know that you will be late to class or that you need to leave early let me know ahead of time.
- 2) Do not eat during class. (You may bring something to drink but don't spill it.)
- 3) If you use a laptop to take notes please sit in the last row of the classroom.
- 4) The papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the days that they are due. A paper handed in after the class has started will lose 1% of the grade. If a paper is late 3% of the grade will be taken off for every day that it is late. A paper handed

- in after class on the day that it is due will count as one day late. Weekends count as days that a paper is late. If you hand in a late paper you must make arrangements with me to hand it in. If you hand it in without making arrangements there is a possibility that you will not get credit for the assignment.
- 5) You are responsible for keeping track of assignments and the class schedule. I suggest that you exchange email addresses with another student so that you can catch up on any notes or assignments that you might miss.
- 6) If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

George Mason has an honor code and you are expected to adhere to it. It is as follows:
“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.” (http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#honor_system_and_code)

If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee immediately. **You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism and other kinds of cheating. If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating ask me for clarification.**

Required texts available for purchase in the bookstore and other booksellers and on reserve in the JC Library:

Kris Lane, *Quito 1599: City and Colony in Transition*

Kenneth Mills, William B. Taylor, Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*

Both books are on reserve in the Johnson Center Library.

I: Before Contact – pre 1492

Week 1 (8/26-8/28): Introduction and reading primary sources

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 78 – 90. THIS READING SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THURSDAY. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Week 2 (9/2-9/4): Americas

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 3-18, 23 – 26. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

September 2 is the last day to add classes and the last day to drop with no tuition penalty

Week 3 (9/9-9/11): Old World

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 27 – 58. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Paper assignment #1 handed out on Tuesday.

II: Conquest and Establishing the Colonial Order – 16th and 17th centuries**Week 4 (9/16-9/18): Exploration and Colombian Exchange**

Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 59 – 77. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Week 5 (9/23-9/25): Conquest

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham 19-22, 93-112, Lane xi-21. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Paper #1 due on Tuesday

NO CLASS ON THURSDAY September 25th.

September 26 is the final day to drop a class

Week 6 (9/30-10/2): State and Church

Reading: Lane, 22– 51, Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham TBA (Image of Esmeraldas maroons)

Week 7 (10/7-10/9): Labor

NO CLASS ON TUESDAY – Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday this week.

Reading: Lane, 52 – 82

Midterm on Thursday Please bring a blue book.

Week 8 (10/14-10/16): Colonial Economies in the World Context

Reading: Lane, 83 – 149

III: Maintaining Colonial Rule – 17th and 18th centuries**Week 9 (10/21-10/23): Population**

Reading: Lane, 150 – 234.

Paper #2 handed out on Monday.

October 24 is the last day to selectively withdraw from a class.

Week 10 (10/28-10/30): Cities and Peripheries

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 113-123, 185 – 195. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Week 11 (11/4-11/6): Social Hierarchies

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 198-217, 272-279, 280-296, 360-365. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Paper #2 due on Monday.

IV. Challenges to Colonial Rule – 18th and 19th centuries

Week 12 (11/11-11/13): Reforms

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 299-308, 316-329. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Week 13 (11/18-11/20): Resistance to the Colonial Order

Readings: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 375-383, 390-396. Use the primary source sheet, attached to this syllabus, to take notes.

Week 14 (11/25-11/27): Review

Readings: None.

We will review for the final exam on Tuesday. In other words, don't miss class on Tuesday.

No class Thursday – Thanksgiving break.

Week 15 (12/4-12/6) Independence

Bolívar, "A Constitution for Venezuela." I will pass out this five-page reading in class.

FINAL EXAM Tuesday December 16 1:30 am – 4:15 pm in our regular classroom.

Please bring a blue book.

Primary source sheet (many of the same questions can be applied to secondary sources as well):

You may not be able to answer all the questions for any given source. Do as much as you can. The more you try to answer these questions the better you will understand the document, and the better you understand the document the better you will do in class discussions and on papers and exams. The primary source readings are a crucial part of this class.

Basic information about the source:

What is it? (*Give the title AND a description – is it a letter? A portrait? A law?*)

Who is the creator?

When did he/she create the source?

What event(s) is the creator reporting?

Where was this source created?

How was this source created?

How are you seeing it? (*In the original, as a reproduction/reprint, in translation, etc.*)

Background:

Why was this source created?

Who did the author intend as the audience?

How did he/she expect the audience to respond?

Deeper context:

How might the author's social/group identity have affected the events he/she reports? (*Think about ethnic, racial, gender, class identity. You will need to place this information in context as well as you can – for example, being a white elite woman in colonial Mexico was very different from being a white elite woman in the 21st-century U.S. You need to know a good deal about historical time periods to do this well, so you should do the best you can here. The most important thing is to remember not to make assumptions about the past based on your assumptions about the present.*)

How might the author's personal needs, desires, hopes, fears, etc. have affected the events he/she reports?

Give specific examples (cite particular statements or passages) of how the author's social and/or personal identity might have affected what he/she reported.

