

**History 365: Conquest and Colonization of Latin America
Fall 2017**

TR 3 pm – 4:15 pm Robinson B 228

Professor Joan Bristol

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Office hours: Wednesdays 2 pm – 3 pm; Thursdays 10 am – 11 am

This course examines the forms of conquest and colonization practiced in Mesoamerica and the Andes by the Aztec, Inca, and Spanish empires over five hundred years, from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. We will examine three sets of questions. First, how have historians thought about terms such as “conquest,” and “colonial?” Do they refer to simple relationships between dominator and oppressed, or do they refer to more ambiguous and contested processes? Second, why did certain civilizations rise to prominence? Why did some civilizations dominate others? How important were external and internal factors? Third, what is the legacy of these historical processes for the world we live in today?

Books:

Andrien, *Andean Worlds*

Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*

Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*

Additional Readings:

Readings available on Blackboard are identified with (BB) on the syllabus. Readings available through the library databases are noted on the syllabus.

Assignments and grading:

1) Three 5-7 page papers (20% each). The due dates are noted on the syllabus. You will receive specific instructions for the papers. These papers will give you a chance to reflect on the readings and develop your own interpretations of the texts.

2) Six quizzes (20% total). These will be simple True/False quizzes based on the class readings. (One may be multiple choice). They do not require any study beyond reading and understanding the assigned texts.

3) Class participation (20% of the final grade). Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions, both group discussions and larger class discussions, as well as in-class projects. You must attend class and do the readings in order to participate fully.

Class policies:

1) Arrive in class on time and stay for the entire class period. If you know you will be late to class or will need to leave early let me know ahead of time.

2) You may bring a drink to class. Do not bring food to class.

3) Turn off cell phones during class.

- 4) If you use a laptop please sit in the back row so that your screen does not distract other students.
- 5) The papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the days that they are due. If you hand in a late paper you must make arrangements with me to hand it in.
- 6) Quizzes are taken at the beginning of class. If you miss a quiz for an unexcused absence you cannot make it up.

Academic Accommodations:

If you have a disability and you need academic accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

This class operates under GMU's Honor Code, which states, "Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work." Plagiarism means presenting another person's words, ideas, or arguments as your own, without giving that person credit. I am obligated to report all violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee. When I report violations I recommend that, if found guilty, the offender fail the course or be suspended from the university. To read more about the Honor Code, the Honor Committee, and its procedures, see go to <http://honorcode.gmu.edu>.

Goals and learning outcomes:

This class meets the Global Understanding requirement for the university. Courses that meet this requirement describe the world from multiple perspectives, encourage you to reflect upon your role in global society, and prepare you to engage in the world as global citizens. This course meets the following learning outcomes:

- 1) Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies. You will do this by examining contact among different groups in the Americas, Europe, and (to a lesser degree) Africa as they met through processes of conquest and colonization in North, Central, and South America.
- 2) Students will develop intercultural competencies. You will do this by examining, discussing, and writing about primary sources that reveal the ideas about culture, morality, justice, and human rights that led different groups in the Americas and Europe to practice conquest and establish colonial systems.
- 3) Students will explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical responses to an issue. You will do this by assessing the way that conquest and colonization has impacted the contemporary global politics and economic systems that shape our lives.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Part I: The many meanings of conquest

Week 1 Introduction and primary sources

Tuesday 8/29: No assignment.

Thursday 8/31: Please watch “The Spanish Empire, Silver, and Runaway Inflation: Crash Course World History #25, available on YouTube (link is on BB).

September 5 is the LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES and the LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES with no tuition penalty.

Week 2 Conquest in Iberia and the Americas

Tuesday 9/5: Please read Clendinnen, “Tenochtitlan: The Public Image,” and “Local Perspectives” (BB).

Thursday 9/7: Please watch “The Moors: Prelude to the Renaissance,” available online through the library and read “Coexistence in the Medieval Spanish Kingdoms” (BB).

Paper 1 assignment posted on BB Thursday.

Week 3 Slavery and conquest

Tuesday 9/12: “A Pope Rewards ‘So Salutary and Laudable a Work’” (BB).

Thursday 9/14: Columbus, “Letter to Lord Raphael Sanchez, 1493” (BB) and an excerpt from Sale, “The Conquest of Paradise” (BB).

Quiz #1 on Thursday.

Week 4 Conquest and the Aztec empire

Tuesday 9/19: Schwartz, “Introduction: Civilizations in Conflict,” “Encounters,” “Tenochtitlan” (BB).

Thursday 9/21: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

Paper assignment 1 due Thursday. Please email it to me before class in MS Word.

Part II: Conquest and its place in history

Week 5 Putting conquest in context

Tuesday 9/26: Mann, “A View from Above” (BB), and Olivia Harris, “The Coming of the White People: Reflections on the Mythologisation of History in Latin America,” *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 1995, vol.14 no. 1, 9-24. *This is available through JSTOR. You can find it by typing the title into the quick search tab on the library website.*

Thursday 9/28: Steve J. Stern, “Paradigms of Conquest: History, Historiography, and Politics,” in *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 24 (1992), pp. 1-34. *This is available through JSTOR. You can find it by typing the title into the quick search tab on the library website.*

Quiz #2 on Thursday.

September 29 is the LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES.

Week 6 Myths of Spanish conquest I

Tuesday 10/3: Please read Restall, xiii -76.

Thursday 10/5: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

October 2-27 is the SELECTIVE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD.

Week 7 Myths of Spanish conquest II

Tuesday 10/9 NO CLASS (Columbus Day break; Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday today).

Thursday 10/12: Restall, 77-157.

Quiz #3 on Thursday.

Part III: Andes and the Legacy of Conquest(s)

Week 8 Conquests and colonization in the Andes I

Tuesday 10/17: D'Altroy, "The Incas Before the Empire," "The History of the Empire: Narrative Visions" (BB).

Thursday 10/19: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

Paper 2 assignment posted on BB Thursday.

Week 9 Conquests and colonization in the Andes II

Tuesday 10/24: Andrien ix-102.

Thursday 10/26: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

Week 10 Conquests and colonization in the Andes III

Tuesday 10/31: Andrien 103-243.

Thursday 11/2: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

Paper 2 due Thursday. Please email it to me before class in MS Word.

Quiz #4 on Thursday.

October 27 is the LAST DAY TO USE A SELECTIVE WITHDRAWAL

Part IV: Identity and Conquest: Mexico and Central America

Week 11 Individual roles in conquest I

Tuesday 11/7: Townsend, 1-108.

Thursday 11/9: We will continue to discuss the Tuesday reading.

Week 12 Individual roles in conquest II

Tuesday 11/14: Townsend, 109-213.

Quiz #5 on Tuesday.

Paper 3 assignment posted on BB Tuesday.

Thursday 11/16: No class; I will be at a conference.

Week 13 Individual roles in conquest III

Tuesday 11/21: No class: please watch *La Otra Conquista*, available on reserve in JC library. Please pick three characters and briefly (in 250 – 500 words) describe how they do or do not change over the course of the film. Please email it to me by

11/27. This will count toward your participation grade.
Thursday 11/23: No class; Thanksgiving break.

Week 14 Perspectives on conquered and conqueror

Tuesday 11/28: Restall and Oudijk, "Mesoamerican Conquistadores in the Sixteenth Century" (BB).

Thursday 11/30: Matthew, "Whose Conquest? Nahua, Zapoteca, and Mixtec Auxiliaries in the Conquest of Central America" (BB).

Paper 3 due Thursday. Please email it to me before class in MS Word.

Week 15 Legacies of Conquest

Tuesday 12/5: Diego Rivera, "The Arrival of Cortés" (BB). This is a mural. Please look at it and take notes on what you *see*. We will discuss what you *infer* in class. Bring the notes to class.

Thursday 12/7: Kathleen Ann Myers, "Aztec Dance Along the Ruta de Cortés: A Search for New Ethnic Identities," in *Hispanófila* vol. 171 June 2014, pp. 157-180. *This is available through Project Muse. You can find it by typing the title into the quick search tab on the library website.*

Quiz #6 on Thursday.