

History 365: Conquest and Colonization of Latin America
Spring 2012
Bristol
12 pm – 1:15 pm
East Building 122

Professor Joan Bristol

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Office hours: Tuesdays 10 am – 12 pm and Wednesdays 2 pm – 3 pm

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 two sets of questions. First, how have historians thought about the Spanish conquest? What do terms such as “conquest,” and “colonial” mean to different historians? 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?

Books:

These can be purchased at the bookstore in the JC, at online booksellers, or elsewhere. I have also placed copies of the books on reserve at the JC library.

Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*

Conrad and Demarest, *Religion and Empire*

Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*

Stern, *Peru's Indian Peoples and the Challenge of Spanish Conquest*

Townsend, Camila. *Malintzin's Choices*

Assignments and grading:

1) Blog participation (40%). We have a class blog at <http://hist365spring2012.blogspot.com/>. You will receive an invitation at your GMU email address to join the blog and when you answer it you will be allowed to post to it. Over the course of the semester you will post at least six times and you will also comment on another student's post at least 2 times.

a) The posts should be at least 250 words, or approximately 1 double-spaced page. Some weeks I will post writing prompt and other weeks you will be allowed to choose your topic. In the free choice weeks you may discuss interesting issues raised in the readings, you may ask thoughtful questions, or you may relate the readings to other readings that we have done. The posts should deal with issues relating to this class and to the readings, however.

b) The comments (using the comment function in Blogger) should be substantive and should respond directly to the original post. Comments should be at least 250 words (approximately 1 double-spaced page). Do you agree with the main idea of the post you are commenting on? Why or why not? Use evidence from the reading to explain your response to the post.

All posts and comments should be on the blog by Sunday at 8 pm. You must have done at least two posts and at least one comment by week 6. I will email you with a cumulative grade after this date so you know how you're doing.

2) Two 5-page papers (15% each, 30% total). The due dates are noted on the syllabus. You will receive specific instructions for the papers. These papers will give you a chance to expand on your ideas and to consider the differences between the kind of informal writing one does on a blog and more formal writing one does in a paper.

3) Four quizzes (20% total). These will be simple quizzes based on the class readings. They do not require any study beyond reading the assignments.

4) Class participation (10% of the final grade). Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions, both group discussions and larger class discussions. You must attend class regularly in order to participate. Please complete the readings by Monday of each week and arrive in class ready to discuss them.

Class policies:

- 1) You are expected to 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 you do not distract other students.
- 5) The papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the days that they are due. 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.**
- 6) Quizzes are taken at the beginning of class. If you miss a quiz for an unexcused absence you cannot make it up.
- 7) Please communicate with me if you are having a problem, if you do not understand something, or if you have a comment. I am available during office hours and by appointment.
- 8) 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.
- 9) I respond to email Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 9-5. I will respond within 48 working hours. There is a good chance that I may respond over the weekend or in the evening, but I cannot guarantee a response outside of regular working hours.
- 10) 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:

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>.

Part I: The Spanish Conquest and its Place in History

Week 1 (1/23 & 1/25) Reading: none

Week 2 (1/30 & 2/1) Reading: Restall, xiii-76.

JANUARY 31 is the LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES and the LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES with no tuition penalty

Week 3 (2/6 & 2/8) Reading: Restall, 77-157.

Quiz #1 on Monday.

Part II: Native Empires in Mesoamerica and the Andes

Week 4 (2/13 & 2/15) Reading: Conrad and Demarest, 1-83

Week 5 (2/20 & 2/22) Reading: Conrad and Demarest, 84-151

*By next week you should have done at least two blog posts and two comments.
Paper assignment #1 handed out on Wednesday.*

FEBRUARY 24 is the LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES and the LAST DAY TO FILE AN INTENT TO GRADUATE

Week 6 (2/27 & 2/29) Reading: Conrad and Demarest, 152-230

*You should have done at least two blog posts and two comments by this week.
Quiz #2 on Monday.*

Part III: Malintzin and Individual Experience

Week 7 (3/5 & 3/7) Reading: Townsend, 1-84

Paper #1 due on Wednesday.

Week 8 (3/12 & 3/14) SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (3/19 & 3/21) Reading: Townsend, 85-171

Week 10 (3/26 & 3/28) Reading: Townsend, 172-213

Quiz #3 on Monday.

MARCH 30 is the LAST DAY TO USE A SELECTIVE WITHDRAWAL

Part IV: The Maya of Yucatan: The Meaning of Conquest

Week 11 (4/2 & 4/4) Clendinnen, xii-128

Week 12 (4/19 & 4/11) Clendinnen, 131-209

Quiz #4 on Monday

Part V: The Andean highlands: Colonization and Resistance

Week 13 (4/16 & 4/18) Reading: Stern, xv-26

Paper #2 assignment handed out on Wednesday.

Week 14 (4/23 & 4/25) Reading: Stern, 27-113

Week 15 (4/30 & 5/2) Reading: Stern, 114-193

Paper #2 due on Wednesday.