

History 271:001 Survey of Latin American History
Fall 2023
Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:45 am.
Horizon Hall 1008

Professor Joan Bristol

Associate Professor of History

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Office hours: Monday 4 pm – 5 pm in my office and by appointment on Zoom (email me to set up an appointment).

What this course is about:

This course is about the history of colonial Spanish and Portuguese America from the pre-contact civilizations of the Americas to independence in the early 19th century. We will study the wars of conquest; the ecological, cultural and economic effects of contact among Indigenous Americans, Africans, and Europeans; colonial political and religious structures; and labor systems including slavery.

Blackboard login instructions.

We will use Blackboard for this course. You can access Blackboard at <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. Log in and click on the “courses” tab. You will see HIST 271.001. Your username and password is the same as those you use for your Mason email account.

Learning objectives and requirements this class fulfills:

By the end of this class you will:

1. Be able to identify primary and secondary sources and place them in historical context.
2. Be able to identify an author’s arguments and discuss their significance.
3. Understand the role of Latin America and Latin Americans in the creation of the modern global economy.
4. Understand the role played by class and race in the creation of the modern world.

Assignments and grading:

1) Class participation (20% of the final grade). **In-class participation is the core of this class.** Participation is measured by involvement in class discussions, some involving the whole class and others involving small groups (so if you do not like talking in the big group that is ok).

Participation grading:

If you do not attend class you will receive a 0 for that day.

If you do not pay attention in class (for example if you are looking at your phone, watching something on your computer, writing a paper for another class, etc.) you will receive a 0 for that day.

If you come to class and pay attention (your head and eyes are turned toward the person who is speaking) you will receive an 80 for the day.

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If you pay attention during class and say something in class that is related to the readings and the class topic you will receive between an 85 and 100 for the day.

You cannot pass this class if you do not attend class regularly. Complete the readings by Monday of each week and arrive in class ready to discuss them.

2) Weekly quizzes on the readings and lectures (20% of the final grade). These are simple quizzes meant to check that you completed the readings and understand them. We will do them in class and there is no way to make them up but I will drop the TWO lowest scores.

4) Paper 1 (20% of the final grade). Due Thursday October 5th at 5 pm. Pick one of the primary sources we have examined and explain who produced it and why they produced it. Make reference to our class discussions: what did we decide in class? Has your understanding changed since we discussed this source in class? The prompt is on Blackboard under the “Primary Source Sheets and Assignments” tab.

5) Paper 2 (20% of the final grade). Due Thursday November 2 at 5 pm. Pick one of the primary sources we have examined and explain who produced it and why they produced it. Make reference to our class discussions: what did we decide in class? Has your understanding changed since we discussed this source in class? The prompt is on Blackboard under the “Primary Source Sheets and Assignments” tab.

Paper 3 (20% of the final grade): This paper will be based on the November 8 roundtable. If you cannot attend the actual event you may watch the recording. The prompt will be on Blackboard under the “Primary Source Sheets and Assignments” tab.

Grading scale:

A = 93.00 - 100%

A- = 89.50 - 92.99%

B+ = 87 - 89.49%

B = 83 - 86.99%

B- = 80 - 82.99%

C+ = 77.00 - 79.99%

C = 73 - 76.99%

C- = 70 - 72.99%

D + 60 - 69.99%

F = 0 - 59.99%

Class policies:

- 1) You are responsible for keeping track of assignments and the class schedule.
- 2) You may use a computer in class to take notes and to read required texts. If you use a computer to take notes I will occasionally ask you to recap the discussion or lecture.
- 3) If you need an extension for a paper assignment please email me at least 24 hours ahead of the deadline. There are no extensions for quizzes.
- 5) If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please

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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.” (<https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>)

If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee immediately. Thus it is best if you consult me with any questions about plagiarism before you hand in an assignment, rather than afterwards because I cannot help you then.

Required text available for purchase in the bookstore and other booksellers:

1. Matthew Restall and Kris Lane, *Latin America in Colonial Times*, Cambridge University Press; 2 edition (2018). *Abbreviation: RL*.

Semester Schedule

Week 1 (8/22 & 8/23): Introduction and reading primary sources.

Reading:

1) Restall and Lane (RL), “Preface: The Colonial Crucible,” pp. xxvi-xix.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Introduction to the class and discussion of primary sources.

Go over the syllabus because we will have an open-syllabus quiz in class.

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Open-book syllabus quiz (you may consult the syllabus during the quiz), discuss reading.

Monday 8/28 Last day to add classes.

Week 2 (8/28&8/30): Americas before 1492

Reading:

1) All-T’oqapu Tunic

<https://smarthistory.org/all-toqapu-tunic/>

2) RL, “Before the Great Encounter,” pp. 1; “Native America,” pp. 3-18; “Native American Empires,” pp. 71-88.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

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Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Tuesday 9/5 Last day to drop with full tuition refund.

Week 3 (9/4&9/6): Old World before 1492

NO CLASS MONDAY (Labor Day)

You do not have a quiz this week but this week's readings will be on next week's quiz.

Reading:

- 1) RL, "Castile and Portugal," pp. 21-34; "Atlantic Africa," pp. 37-49.

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 9/13 - Tuesday 9/28 Unrestricted withdrawal period (no tuition refund)

Week 4 (9/11&9/13): Exploration and Trade

Reading:

- 1) "The Letter of Pero Vaz de Caminha,"

http://assets.cambridge.org/97805211/98332/excerpt/9780521198332_excerpt.htm.

- 2) RL, "The Long Conquest," pp. 51-52; "The Iberian Imperial Dawn," pp. 55-69.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 5 (9/18&9/20): Invasion

Reading:

- 1) "Cortes Learns of Revolt in Tenochtitlan,

<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/teaching-and-learning-in-the-digital-age/the-history-of-the-americas/the-conquest-of-mexico/letters-from-hernan-cortes/cortes-learns-of-revolt-in-tenochtitlan>

- 2) "Death of Moctezuma," <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/teaching-and-learning-in-the-digital-age/the-history-of-the-americas/the-conquest-of-mexico/historia-verdadera/the-death-of-moctezuma>

- 3) "Spaniards Flee Tenochtitlan," <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/teaching-and-learning-in-the-digital-age/the-history-of-the-americas/the-conquest-of-mexico/florentine-codex/spaniards-flee-tenochtitlan>

- 4) RL, "The Chain of Conquest," pp. 91-117.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

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Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Go over paper prompt #1, due October 5.

Wednesday 9/27 – Monday 10/23 Selective withdrawal period: you may withdraw (no tuition refund) but there are certain restrictions. Speak with your advisor about this.

Week 6 (9/25&9/27): “Conquest” as Negotiation

Reading:

1) RL, “The Incomplete Conquest,” 119-140.

2) “The Indian Pueblo of Texupa,” *From Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, ed. Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale-Graham. **ON BLACKBOARD.**

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 7 (10/2&10/4): Communities

Reading:

1) “The Evils of Cochineal,” *From Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, ed. Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale-Graham. **ON BLACKBOARD**

2) RL, “The Colonial Middle,” 141-142; “Native Communities,” pp. 145-166; “Black Communities,” pp. 169-192.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Paper-writing workshop using this week’s primary sources.

Paper 1 due on Thursday by 5 pm. Hand it in on Blackboard.

Week 8 (10/10&10/11): Church and Evangelization

CLASS MEETS TUESDAY 10/10 INSTEAD OF MONDAY (No classes Monday because it is Indigenous People’s Day)

Reading:

“Fray Pedro de Gante’s Letter,” *From Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, ed. Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale-Graham. **ON BLACKBOARD.**

RL, “The Religious Renaissance,” 195-213.

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Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 9 (10/16&10/18): Individuals and Institutions

You do not have a primary source sheet due this week but we will have a quiz.

Reading:

- 1) MTLG, "Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala's Appeal," *From Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, ed. Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale-Graham. **ON BLACKBOARD.**
- 2) RL, "Deviancy, Discipline, and Identity," pp. 215-232.

**Thursday October 19 Community-Engaged History Roundtable: The Indigenous Chesapeake
DETAILS TBA**

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 10 (10/23&10/25): Cities and Peripheries

Reading:

- 1) "Spaniards in the Nahua Countryside: Dr. Diego de León Plaza and Nahuatl Land Sale Documents," *From Colonial Lives*, edited Richard Boyer, presented by Rebecca Horn.
- 2) RL, "Daily Life in City and Country," 235-259.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 11 (10/30&11/1): Gender and Religion

Reading:

- 1) Sor Juana's *Respuesta a Sor Filotea*. **ON BLACKBOARD.**
- 2) Joan Bristol, "Women – Colonial Spanish America" in *Iberia and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History* (3 vols.), ed. J. Michael Francis, ABC-Clio, 2006. **ON BLACKBOARD.**

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Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Paper 2 due on Thursday by 5 pm. Hand it in on Blackboard.

Week 12 (11/6&11/8): Social Hierarchies

Reading:

1) Caroline Gillaspie, *Parish of San Sebastián*, Procession of Corpus Christi series

<https://smarthistory.org/parish-of-san-sebastian-procession-of-corpus-christi/>

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Wednesday November 8: Community-Engaged History Roundtable: Indigenous Latin America in Northern Virginia
DETAILS TBA

Week 13 (11/13&11/15): Reforms and Resistance

Reading:

1) "José de Galvez's Decrees," *From Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, ed. Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale-Graham. **ON BLACKBOARD.**

2) RL, "War and Reform," pp. 263-282.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 14 (11/20&11/22): Late Colonial Rebellions

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY (Thanksgiving break)

Reading:

1) Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, "As for the Spaniards," pp. 299-308; "Túpac Amaru I, Remembered," pp. 390-396.

2) RL, "Late Colonial Life," pp. 285-305.

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Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Week 15 (11/27&11/29): Independence and Colonial legacies

Reading:

RL, "Independence," pp. 309-327; "The Latin American Puzzle," pp. 329-330.

Monday 10:30 (in class):

Lecture

Quiz on readings and lecture

Wednesday 10:30 (in class):

Discuss primary sources.

Paper 3 due on Thursday by 5 pm. Hand it in on Blackboard.