

History of Colonial Latin America
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Introduction:

This course is an introduction to the history of Colonial Latin America. The course will move through some significant themes; the course is meant to be comprehensive, but will not cover “all” of colonial Latin America’s complex history, dating from about 1492 to 1826.

Structure:

We will meet M, W, F. I will lecture on M and W and Fridays will be dedicated to quizzes and student-led discussion based on reading and lecture.

Grading, etc.

Attendance is required and any student missing an unreasonable number of classes (say...10 percent of the total number of classes) will see their grade lowered. Students, for whatever reason, who miss a third or more of the course, will fail. Grades will be based on a mid-term exam, a final and two short analytical essays. Friday quizzes and participation will be considered in determining the final grade.

Books:

There are three required texts for this class and a “packet” of readings that is on reserve, indicated by “R” on the syllabus. Students are expected to complete all readings on time.

Adelman, J., ed. *Colonial Legacies*.
León-Portilla, M. *The Broken Spears*.
García Márquez, G. *Of Love and Other Demons*.

Main themes and topics.

The course will focus on five main themes, and we will spend three weeks on each theme. Each week, students will write a quiz based on the week’s readings (and deliver the quiz to the class) and two students will lead a brief discussion on the reading. Our goal this

semester is to stress the “relevance” (or, persistence) of Latin America’s colonial history in modern history, both Latin America’s and our own.

Film assignment: students will be assigned to groups of four and will find, view and discuss a film dealing with Latin America’s colonial history with the class. Each student will submit a one page summary of the film to the professor. This is a requirement for successful completion of the course.

Lecture topics, readings and exams.

Weeks 1-3

Theme: Conquest

Reading: *The Broken Spears; Adelman, chapter one*
Vargas Llosa, M. “A Question of Conquest” (R)

Week 4-6

Theme: Religion

Reading: *Of Love and Other Demons*; chapter from “Sor Juana” (R)

Weeks 7-9: Social issues

Reading: Adelman; chapters 2-3. Reading from Conrad and *The Brazil Reader* (R)

Week 10-12: Reform and rebellion

Reading: Adelman, chapters 4-7; reading from *The Peru Reader* (R)

Weeks 13-15: Independence

Reading: Adelman, chapters 8-12; reading from *La Nueva Granada Colonial* (R)

Papers due: Monday of week 4, 7

Mid term exam is on Friday of week 9

Final exam is during the regularly scheduled exam time for this class.