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HIST 261-01, History of Colonial Latin America, Fall 2011

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History of Colonial Latin America

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Offices Hours: Monday 8-10 (Buckman); W 11-12 (Burrow); F 8-10 (Burrow)
Fall, 2011

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 and F. I will lecture on M and W and Fridays will be dedicated to 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 and weekly writing assignments. Each assignment is worth about 20 percent toward the final grade.

Books:

There are four 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.

Carpentier, Alejo. *The Harp and the Shadow*.

García Márquez, G. *Of Love and Other Demons*.

LaRosa, Michael and Mejía, Germán R. *An Atlas and Survey of Latin American History*.

Restall, Matthew. *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*.

Film assignment: We will view three films during the course of the semester—these films will be scheduled out of class, and all students are required to attend. One of the two assigned papers will be an analytical review of the three films. The films are: *The Mission*, *Yo La Peór de Todas*, and *Burn!*

Weekly writing, visual work. Each Friday students will hand in a one page paper, of about 250 words, but no more than 500. The topics will vary from week to week—some will be based on readings, others, discussions, films, images or lecture. I will collect and read these papers, but they will not be graded. These papers can only be handed in on Friday, in person, on paper, during class time. There are no exceptions to this—except if I chose to grant an exception.

The course will be divided into five three week sections. Each “section” represents a significant theme in colonial Latin America’s long, complex history.

Weeks 1-3

Theme: Conquest

Reading: Carpentier.
LaRosa and Mejía, chapters 1-4
Restall, Introduction, chapters one and two
Vargas Llosa, M. “A Question of Conquest” (R)

Film: *The Mission* (week 3)

Week 4-6

Theme: Religion

Reading: *Of Love and Other Demons*
Restall, chapters 3-4

Film: *Yo La Peór de Todas* (week 6)

Weeks 7-9: Social issues

Reading: Reading from Conrad and *The Brazil Reader* (R)
Restall, chapters 5-6
LaRosa and Mejía, chapters 5-6

Week 10-12: Reform and rebellion

Reading: Reading from *The Peru Reader* (R)
LaRosa and Mejía, chapter 7
Restall, chapters 7 and Epilogue

Film: *Burn* (week 12)

Weeks 13-15: Independence and consequences

Reading: Chapter eight from Martin and Wasserman, (R)

Papers due: Monday of week 7, 13 (October 3, Nov. 14)

Mid term exam is on Friday of week 9 (October 21)

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