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HIST 261-01, History of Colonial Latin America, Fall 2010

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History of Colonial Latin America

Prof. Michael J. LaRosa

Office: 311 Clough.

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Offices Hours: MWF, 8-10 (Clough) am and Wed., 3-7 pm (Burrow)

Introduction:

This course is an introduction to the history of Colonial Latin America. The course will move through some of the significant themes of the time period and region; 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 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, should not expect to pass this course. Grades will be based on a mid-term exam, a final and two short analytical essays, and a "book" project. Each assignment is worth about 20 percent toward the final grade.

Books:

There are five 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*.

Las Casas, Bartolomé de. *The Devastation of the Indies*.

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 the viewings.

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!*

Book presentation project:

Each student will find a book, written in English, Spanish or Portuguese, that deals with Colonial Latin American History. You can choose ANY book at all, but the student will have to explain what the source is (a textbook, travel account, scientific expedition, sermon, scholarly monograph, diary, cookbook, etc) and analyze the source—explaining how it has contributed to your understanding of Latin American history—in a four page paper and a ten minute presentation to the class. I will not loan out books from my library for this assignment. Please submit a 750 word critical essay of your book.

Weekly writing, visual work. On Friday, students will take a quiz based on readings (twice per month) and view two images (twice per month) that deal with colonial Latin American history. Many of the images are photographs. You will be asked to write between 300 and 500 words explaining what the image is, how it relates to readings, or lectures or, simply, how the images have helped you to think about colonial Latin American history. Obviously, there are no right or wrong answers to this assignment, but the assignment will be collected (on Monday) and marked (not graded), and we will discuss the images on Monday morning.

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: *The Devastation of the Indies. The Harp and the Shadow.*
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

Reading: Chapter eight from Martin and Wasserman, (R)
Student presentations on selected books.

Week 16: Review for final exam

Papers due: Monday of week 5, 13—(20th of Sept. and 15 Nov.)

Mid term exam is on Friday of week 9—22nd of Oct.

Final exam is during the regularly scheduled exam time for this class; book papers due on last day of class.