

Latin America and the World

Spring 2016
Wednesdays, 5:00 to 7:40

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****As of 12/15/15, this syllabus is still provisional and subject to change by the start of the semester.****



In this course, we will investigate the multifaceted relationships between Latin American places, nations, and people and the rest of the world from the time of the Spanish conquest to the present. How have those relationships shaped Latin America and Latin Americans, and how have Latin America and Latin Americans shaped the history of other places—and of the world? Through a diverse set of readings, we will examine how the culture, politics, and economics of Latin American society both fit into and shape a global narrative. In the process, we will define and interrogate concepts like “exchange,” “influence,” “nationalism,” “exploitation,” “imperialism,” and “cooperation.” We will at times ask very specific questions about particular kinds of relationships—between Spain and its American colonies, between the United States and Latin America, or between Latin American nations and their neighbors. But we will also constantly be exploring how, as historians, we might build a narrative of Latin American history that both is globally informed and informs the global.

Requirements:

The requirements for this class are as follows:

- 1) Attendance and participation (40% of grade)

As this is a graduate-level seminar, it depends on everyone coming to class having read and thought about the readings for the week. Please note that this grade is based on the quality, not just the quantity, of your participation.

The elements of this portion of the grade are as follows:

a) Participation in class discussion. You should come to every class with ideas, questions and thoughts about the readings and with notes that will help you organize your thoughts. As I am also aware that everyone has a different level of comfort with class participation, this portion of the grade also includes two written elements.

b) Reflection/Re-reflection papers

Each week, you will write a brief paper (1-2 pages) in response to the readings, due in class the day we discuss those readings. *The next day*, you will send to me, via email, an even briefer (1-2 paragraphs) reflection on your own response, in which you consider how your thoughts about the readings may or may not have changed after our group discussion.

c) Blog participation

I will be setting up a blog for this class. Each student is required to post at least one comment on the blog and at least one response to someone else's comment *before class meets*.

2) Book Review Essay (20% of grade)

You will sign up to write an essay (5 pages) reviewing one of the sets of readings for the semester.

3) Final Paper (40% of grade)

You will write a paper (12-15 pages) on a topic of your choosing.

Separate instruction sheets for each of these components will be handed out in class and available on the Blackboard site for this course.

Two Important Policy Notes:

- 1) Attendance is crucial. As per departmental policy, any student missing four or more classes, through any combination of excused or unexcused absences, will not receive credit for the course. If you find yourself in this position through circumstances beyond your control, we encourage you to seek a retroactive withdrawal.
- 2) You will follow the University's Policy on Academic Integrity, which falls under the Code of Student Conduct. The policy and the consequences of violating it are outlined here: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/office-dean-student-affairs/academic-integrity-policy>. *I strictly follow the University's rules regarding plagiarism and other academic irregularities. Please consult me if you have any questions about what is and is not appropriate regarding the use of sources or citation.*

Readings:

The following books are required reading, and are available at the University Bookstore. They will also be available on Course Reserve at Dana Library. Please note that is often less expensive to purchase these books online.

Nancy E. Van Deusen, *Global Indios: The Indigenous Struggle for Justice in Sixteenth-Century Spain* (Duke University Press, 2015)

James H. Sweet, *Domingos Alvarez, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World* (University of North Carolina Press, 2013)

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2010)

Fabricio Prado, *Edge of Empire: Atlantic Networks and Revolution in Bourbon Rio de la Plata* (University of California Press, 2015)

Ada Ferrer, *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Rebecca J. Scott, *Degrees of Freedom: Louisiana and Cuba after Slavery* (Harvard University Press, 2005)

Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (Yale University Press, 2008)

Heidi Tinsman, *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Post-War Chile and the United States* (Duke University Press, 2014)

Jerry Davila, *Hotel Tropico: Brazil and the Challenge of African Decolonization* (Duke University Press, 2010)

Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism* (Holt, 2007)

Winifred Tate, *Drugs, Thugs, and Diplomats: U.S. Policymaking in Colombia* (Stanford University Press, 2015)

*All other readings are either available online or will be posted on the Blackboard page for this class.

Weekly Readings:

Jan. 20

Colonial World Travelers: Goods and People at Home and Abroad

Jan. 27

1. Nancy E. Van Deusen, *Global Indios*

Nathan Wachtel, “The Indian and the Spanish Conquest” (Blackboard)

Feb. 3

2. James H. Sweet, *Domingos Alvares*

Herbert S. Klein and Ben Vinson, “Slavery in Portuguese and Spanish America in the 18th Century” (Blackboard)

Feb. 10

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures*

Feb. 17

Crises of Empire and the Rise of Nations

4. Fabricio Prado, *Edge of Empire*

David Bushnell and Neill MacAuley, “The Founding of a New Political System” (Blackboard)

Feb. 24

5. Ada Ferrer, *Freedom’s Mirror*

Mar. 2

6. James E. Sanders, “The Vanguard of the Atlantic World: Contesting Modernity in Nineteenth-Century Latin America.” (online)

Michael Gobat, “The Invention of Latin America: A Transnational History of Anti-Imperialism, Democracy, and Race.” (online)

Ingrid E. Fey, “Peddling the Pampas: Argentina at the Paris Universal Exposition of 1889” (Blackboard)

Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, “1910 Mexico City: Space and Nation in the City of the Centenario” (online)

OR

Aims McGuinness, "Searching for Latin America: race and Sovereignty in the Americas in the 1850s"

Mar. 9

7. Rebecca J. Scott, *Degrees of Freedom*

****SPRING BREAK****

Mar. 23

Hemispheric Connections: Borders and Markets

8. Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes*

Mar. 30

9. Heidi Tinsman, *Buying into the Regime*

Alternative Relationships

Apr. 6

10. Jerry Davila, *Hotel Tropic*

The Colossus of the North in the Twentieth Century

Apr. 13

11. Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop*

Apr. 20

12. Winifred Tate, *Drugs, Thugs, and Diplomats*

Apr. 27

No reading; discussion of final papers