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 how has Latin America 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 will also constantly be exploring how 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 (30% 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 a written element:

b) Blog participation

The blog for this class is located at TBD. 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 each week. I know that folks are busy and that you are often preparing for class up to the time class begins. But this assignment is much more effective if you can post your thoughts as early as possible. You do not necessarily have to have read the entire reading by the time you post your blog comments.

2) Comparative Review Essays (30% of grade)

You will write two short essays (4-5 pages), one in each half of the semester, that put any sets of readings (books or collections of articles) into conversation with each other.

3) Final Paper (40% of grade)

For the final paper, you will identify a reading/readings from the class that raises a historical question of interest to you. Then, you will identify outside readings that also address this question, and write a paper addressing the ways the different authors approach it.

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

Readings:

The following books are required reading, and are available at the University Bookstore (as possible, they will also be on reserve at Dana Library:

All other readings will be on the Blackboard page for this class.


María Cristina García, *Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada* (University of California Press, 2006)

**Weekly Readings:**

**Jan. 23: Introduction**

*No Reading*

**Jan. 30: Encounters**


Rebecca Earle, “‘If You Eat Their Food…’: Diets and Bodies in Early Colonial Spanish America,” *American Historical Review* 115:3 (June 2010), 688-713.


Stephanie Wood, “Rereading the Invasion: Uncovering Indigenous Voices” and “Pictorial Images of Spaniards: The Other Other,” in *Transcending Conquest: Nahua Views of Spanish Colonial Mexico* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2003), 1-59

**Feb. 6: Goods**

Jesse Cromwell, *The Smuggler’s World*
Feb. 13: Africa in the New World

James H. Sweet, *Recreating Africa*

Feb. 20: Independence and Politics

Hilda Sabato, *Republics of the New World*

Feb. 27: Independence, Slavery, and Emancipation

Ann Eller, *We Dream Together*

Mar. 6: “Latin America”


Aims McGuinness, “Searching for ‘Latin America’: Race and Sovereignty in the Americas in the 1850s”


Mar. 13: Empire

Michel Gobat, *Confronting the American Dream: Nicaragua under U.S. Imperial Rule*

****SPRING BREAK****

Mar. 27: Feminism
[Katharine M. Marino, *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement*]

**Apr. 3: Political Ecology**

Seth Garfield, *In Search of the Amazon: Brazil*

**Apr. 10: Cold War**

Patrick Iber: *Neither Peace nor Freedom*

**Apr. 17: Labor**

Deborah Cohen, *Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transnational Subjects in the Post-War United States and Mexico*

**Apr. 24: Human Rights**


Alison Brysk, “Turning Weakness into Strength: The Internationalization of Indian Rights,” *Latin American Perspectives*, 23:2 (Spring 1996), 38-57

**May 1: Migration**

Maria Cristina Garcia, *Seeking Refuge*