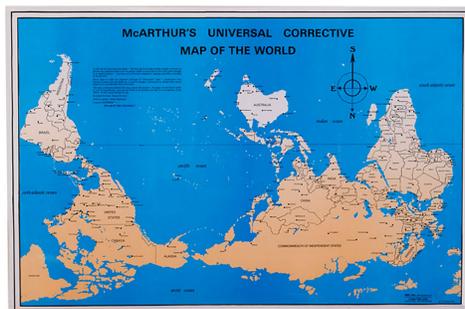


## Latin America and the World

Spring 2022  
Mondays, 5:00 to 7:40

Professor Karen Caplan  
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Conklin Hall  
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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,” “national,” “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.

\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to change before class begins on January 24. I can, however guarantee that the readings for the first two weeks will not change, if you would like to begin acquiring the books.\*\*\*

### ***Requirements:***

The requirements for this class are as follows:

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

A graduate-level seminar 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) Online discussion participation. We will use the Canvas discussion board. Each student is required to post *at least one* comment on the board and *at least one* response to someone else's comment *a least two hours before class meets each week* (earlier is better! The more conversation before class, the better conversation in class will be).
- 2) Short essays. (30% of grade). You will write two short essays (4-5 pages), one in each half of the semester.
- 3) Final Framing Project (30% of grade). For the final project, you will choose one of several options to present a cumulative analysis of the idea of "Latin America and the World." This could be a formal paper, but could also include a syllabus, an exhibit proposal, or something else; your proposals will be welcome!

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

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://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

*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. I would MUCH rather have these conversations than be in the position of having to report any violations.*

- 3) All students are required to sign the Rutgers Academic Integrity Pledge and the Rutgers Honor Pledge on each piece of major written work: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination/assignment."

- 4) If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Disability Services at the semester's start. Please see the website here: <https://studentaffairs.newark.rutgers.edu/health-wellness/disability-services>
- 5) *We can, should, and will sometimes disagree in this class. It should go without saying that we should all treat each other with respect and patience and address our discussions in the spirit of learning and cooperation.*

### **Readings:**

The following books are required reading. *Please note that some of these books are available online through our library system. If you like reading online, check before you buy!*

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

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

James H. Sweet, *Domingos Alvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011)

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

Roberto Saba, *American Mirror: The United States and Brazil in the Age of Emancipation* (Princeton University Press, 2021)

Marixa Lasso, *Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal* (Harvard University Press, 2019)

Katherine M. Marino, *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020)

Ernesto Seman, *Ambassadors of the Working Class: Argentina's International Labor Activists and Cold War Democracy in the Americas* (Duke University Press, 2017)

Christy Thornton, *Revolution in Development: Mexico and the Governance of the Global Economy* (University of California Press, 2021)

Ana Raquel Minian, *Undocumented Lives: The Untold Story of Mexican Migration* (Harvard University Press, 2020)

Suzana Sawyer, *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador* (Duke University Press, 2004)

### **Weekly Readings:**

***Jan. 24: Introduction***

*No Reading*

**Jan. 31: Colonial Exchanges**

Marcy Norton, *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World*

**Feb. 7: Africa in the New World**

James H. Sweet, *Domingos Alvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*

**Feb. 14: Empire, Revolution, Nation**

Jesse Cromwell, "Illicit Ideologies: Moral Economies of Venezuelan Smuggling and Autonomy in the Rebellion of Juan Francisco de León, 1749-1751"

Jeremy Adelman, "An Age of Imperial Revolutions"

Marixa Lasso, "Race War and Nation in Caribbean Gran Colombia, 1810-1832"

Karen D. Caplan, "The Indigenous Revolution in Town Politics"

**Feb. 21 Independence, Slavery, and Emancipation**

Ada Ferrer, *Freedom's Mirror: Cuba and Haiti in the Age of Revolution*

**Feb. 28: American Modernity**

Roberto Saba, *American Mirror: The United States and Brazil in the Age of Emancipation*

**Mar. 7: "Latin America"**

Marixa Lasso, "Race, War, and Nation"

James E. Sanders, "The Vanguard of the Atlantic World: Contesting Modernity in Nineteenth-Century Latin America," *Latin American Research Review* 46:2 (2013), 104-127.

Michel Gobat, "The Invention of Latin America: A Transnational History of Anti-Imperialism, Democracy, and Race," *American Historical Review* 118:5 (2013), 1345-1375

Ada Ferrer, "Cuba, 1898: Rethinking Race, Nation, and Empire," *Radical History Review* 73 (January 1999), 22-46

SPRING BREAK

**Mar. 21: Empire**

Marixa Lasso, *Erased: The Untold Story of the Panama Canal*

**Mar. 28: American Feminism**

Katherine M. Marino, *Feminism for the Americas: The Making of an International Human Rights Movement*

**Apr. 4: American Labor**

Ernesto Seman, *Ambassadors of the Working Class: Argentina's International Labor Activists and Cold War Democracy in the Americas*

**Apr. 11: Development**

Christy Thornton, *Revolution in Development: Mexico and the Governance of the Global Economy*

**Apr. 18: Migration**

Ana Raquel Minian, *Undocumented Lives: The Untold Story of Mexican Migration*

**Apr. 25: Local/Transnational/Local**

Suzana Sawyer, *Crude Chronicles: Indigenous Politics, Multinational Oil, and Neoliberalism in Ecuador*

**May 2: Wrapping Up/ Project Presentations**