Latin America, 1750-1910
History 381, CRN 22815
Winter 2016, TR 12-1:20, McKenzie 125

Professor Reuben Zahler
rczahler@uoregon.edu, 346-5907
Office: McKenzie 307

Office Hours:
Th 2-4pm
or by appointment

Office: McKenzie 307 or by appointment

GRADUATE TEACHING FELLOW (GTF)
Ricardo Velázquez, rvelazqu@uoregon.edu, 541-346-6227
Office hours: McKenzie 343: M 9-10am; Th 4-5pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The American empires of Spain and Portugal became independent in the 1820s, after a decade of costly warfare (for Spanish America). The leaders of the newly independent republics embarked upon an extremely ambitious path. Inspired by Enlightenment thought and models from the North Atlantic (France, Britain, and the US), they set out to transform their former colonies into sovereign republics with such modern features as legal equality, civil rights, elected government, and capitalistic economies. Abandoning custom, they wanted to transform a political culture in which legitimacy flowed from tradition, the king, and the Church, to one in which legitimacy resided in public opinion, representative government, and a free-market economy. Though these plans appeared rational at the time, violence, repression, and poverty continued to plague these republics decades after independence. Why didn’t these glorious ideas work better? Across the century and a half that brackets independence, this course will investigate not only political, economic, and social structures, but also the less tangible cultural features that undergird a society and affect its attempts to “develop.” We will investigate these issues through a combination of original and scholarly sources. Through exploring the perspectives of numerous peoples (men and women, rich and poor, ethnic and racial groups) we will attempt to understand why freedom, equality, and democracy can be such complicated, dangerous ideas.

READINGS:
Books: The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore.
• Course Packet
EVALUATIONS

Map quiz (Jan 14) 2%
Reading (20%)
  Reading paragraphs 10%
  Reading quizzes 10%
Papers (53%)
  Introductory paragraphs (Jan 28 & Feb 25) 8%
  Paper 1 (Feb 8, 3-4pp) 20%
  Paper 2 (March 7, 4-6pp) 25%
Final Exam (Fri March 18, 8am): 25%

1) Map Quiz: Identify the names and capitals of all the countries of mainland Spanish and Portuguese America plus Cuba (not other islands or the Guyanas).
2) Reading evaluations: alternate quizzes and paragraphs
   a) Reading Paragraphs: weeks 2, 4, 6, 8; due Thursday at 11am
      i) Starting Week 2, on even-numbered weeks, post to Canvas a paragraph on the week’s reading. See prompts and where to post in Canvas >> Modules >> Reading Paragraphs.
      ii) Due on Thursday at 11am.
   b) Reading Quizzes: Weeks 3, 5, 7, 10 at the start of class on Thursday
      i) Starting Week 3, odd weeks will have an in-class reading quiz on Thursday (quiz on week 10 instead of week 9)
      ii) Quizzes will cover reading material from the week in which the quiz occurs (e.g., the week 3 quiz will cover the reading for week 3).
   c) No make-ups or late submissions. The two reading evaluations with the lowest score will be dropped from your final grade.
3) Papers: You will write two papers that analyze the course reading. Beforehand, you will write a draft of each papers’ introductory paragraph along with a description of the rest of the paper. We will edit the introduction, and you will then write the full paper, integrating our edits.
4) Final exam: Will be comprehensive, based on both reading and lecture materials.

Grading: Numbered scores correspond to letter grades as follows: Numbers in the 90s are As, the 80s are Bs, the 70s are Cs, the 60s are Ds, and below 60 is an F. Plusses and minuses work as follows: 80-82 = B-; 83-86 = B; 87-89 = B+. Any decimal below .5 gets rounded down, any decimal of .5 or above gets rounded up. So 86.4 becomes 86, which is a B; 86.5 becomes 87, which is a B+.
For a description of the what difference letter grades mean, see http://history.uoregon.edu/undergraduate/

COURSE POLICIES
1. Attendance: You are expected to attend each class, to have finished the reading assignment before class, and to participate in discussion.
2. Respect: Mutual respect and courtesy are necessary for the course to be a success. No eating, talking, listening to music, or reading the newspaper in class.
   a. Cell phones: Turn off your cell phones before class starts; Professor Zahler has the
right to answer any in-class calls or texts that you receive.
b. Computers: You may use a computer during class time for taking notes but not for extraneous activities; computer users should sit in the front of the class.

3. Late assignments: The reading paragraphs/quizzes have a firm deadline and will not be accepted late. You can submit papers late and you will lose points on late assignments at a rate of 10pts/24-hours. You can get an extension if you have a legitimate reason (e.g. health problems, a death in the family, imprisonment, alien abduction, etc.). Legitimate reasons require supporting evidence. Snowboarding on Mt. Bachelor is not a legitimate reason.

4. You may not sell class notes to other students. You may not use Canvas for commercial purposes or to advertise items for sale. Use of services that sell course notes is prohibited because they contradict the educational purpose of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Any work you submit must be your own and must be produced exclusively for this class – plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All ideas from other sources must be properly cited. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Be aware that consequences for plagiarism or cheating can include an F in the course, suspension, or expulsion. For further information on this subject, as well as guidelines for proper citation, see the web sites:

Student Conduct Code for Academic Misconduct:
https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards.aspx
https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconductatUO.aspx

Plagiarism Guide for Students:
http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
In this course, we will learn not only a body of historical information but also will refine a set of intellectual skills that apply to any professional career path you will pursue. In this course you can expect to learn:

• Major political, economic, and social trends of Latin America, from the late colonial period through the nineteenth century.
• Why independence from colonial rule and the process of modernization in Latin America did not promptly generate stable, prosperous, and democratic republics.
• How the discipline of history uses primary and secondary sources, and works with inconsistent or contradictory evidence
• How to use critical questions and analysis of evidence to understand complex situations
• Improved communication skills: how to write a clear essay with an evidence-based argument and (hopefully) how to answer/ask questions in public
SCHEDULE

A brief note on the reading assignments:
• Complete readings before the class for which they are assigned, in the order listed.
• Look at the Readings Suggestions (Canvas>>Modules>>Course Documents) before you start the weekly readings for background and context.

Reading Codes:
Readings in the syllabus will be marked as follows:
“M&W” for Martin and Wasserman’s Hist 381: Latin America
“DLA” for Documenting Latin America
“CP” for Course Packet

Late Colonial Period
Week 1: Spanish America’s Late Colonial Period
Jan 5: Introduction

Jan 7: Colonial structures
• M&W: Chapter 1: “A New People and Their World”

Week 2: Bourbon Rule
Jan 12: Late Colonial world
• M&W: Chapter 2: “The Shifting Fortunes of Colonial Empires”
• CP: Laws of the Bourbon Monarchy (Early Modern Spain 225-232)

Jan 14: Society and Bourbon rule
• DLA: v1 Introduction (xxv-xxxiv); pp175-77; Chapters 20, 22, 24
  ❖ Reading Paragraph due by 11am
  ❖ Map Quiz (in class)

W3: Colonial honor and law
Jan 19: Honor
• CP: Lyman Johnson, The Faces of Honor (1-17, 127-51)
• CP: The Mangy Parrot, 11-15

Jan 21: Law
• CP: Colonial court cases: (Colonial Lives: 185-200, 269-78)
  ❖ These are cases from Ecuador, 1768 and Louisiana, 1795
• DLA: v1 Chapter 21
  ❖ Reading Quiz (in class)
Independence
Week 4: Independence
Jan 26:
  • M&W: Chapter 3: “The New Nations of Latin America”
  • Declarations of Independence:
    o Venezuela, 1811 [Click on web link]
    o CP: Argentina, 1816
    o Mexico, 1821 [Click on web link. First part is in Spanish, must scroll down for English]

Jan 28:
  • DLA: v1 pp215-218; Chapter 28
  • CP: Simón Bolivar’s “Address to the Congress of Angostura”
  ❖ Reading Paragraph due by 11am
  ❖ Due: Introductory paragraph for Paper 1

Early Republican Period (1820s through ~ 1880s)
Week 5: The Troubles with Independence
Feb 2:
  • M&W: Chapter 4: “Regionalism, War, and Reconstruction”
  • CP: Bolivar: “Message to the Convention of Ocaña”

Feb 4:
  • CP: Articles by Mexican Conservatives and Liberals, 1840s (*Mexico Reader*, 220-38)
  ❖ Reading Quiz (in class)

Week 6: Gender, Family, Law
  ❖ Feb 8: Due: Paper 1

Feb 9:
  • CP: Sarah Chambers, “To the company of a man like my husband”
  • CP: Rossana Barragán, “The ‘spirit’ of Bolivian laws”

Feb 11:
  • DLA: v2 pp79-82, Chapters 10, 11, and 12
  ❖ Reading Paragraph due by 11am

Week 7: Civilization and Barbarism
Feb 16:
• M&W: Chapter 5: “Everyday Life in an Uncertain Age, 1821-1880”
• DLA: v1 Chapter 29; v2 pp37-39, Chapter 7

Feb 18:
• DLA: v2 Chapter 5
• CP: “The Slaughterhouse,” Argentina Reader
  ❖ Reading Quiz (in class)

**Stability, progress, and Neo-colonialism (~ 1880s – ~1910)**

Week 8: Neo-colonial society, politics, economics

Feb 23:

Feb 25:
• CP: The Mexico Reader (pp 273-84)
• CP: The Argentina Reader (pp182-92)
  ❖ Reading Paragraph due by 11am
  ❖ Due: Introductory paragraph for Paper 2

Week 9: Neo-colonial society, politics, economics

March 1: Neo-Colonial politics and economics
  • DLA: Chapter 13, 15

March 3: Neo-colonial society
  • No reading Assignment
  ❖ Paper 2 due

Week 10: Race and imperialism
  ❖ March 7: Paper 2 due

March 8:
• CP: Euclides da Cunha, Rebellion in the Backlands: 66-67, 86-93, 404-411, 424-44
• DLA: Chapter 14

March 10:
• Wrap up and Review
  ❖ Reading Quiz (in class)

Final Exam: Friday March 18, 8:00am. Location: TBA