

History 271: Survey of Latin American History
Fall 2009
MWF 10:30 am-11:20 am
Robinson Hall B222

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Office hours Tuesday 10 – 12, Thursday 1-3, and by appointment

This course examines the history of colonial Spanish and Portuguese America from the pre-contact civilizations of the Americas to independence in the early 19th century. Specific topics that will be studied include the wars of conquest; the ecological, cultural and economic effects of contact among Europeans, Africans, and indigenous inhabitants of the Americas; colonial political structures; and labor systems including slavery.

Assignments and grading:

- 1) Class participation (10% of the final grade). Participation will be measured by involvement in class discussions and the completion of in-class assignments. You must attend class regularly in order to participate. Complete the readings by Monday of each week and arrive in class ready to discuss them.
- 2) Two 4-5 page papers responding to a question (25% each)
- 3) Midterm exam (covers all material up to the time of the exam) (20%)
- 4) Final exam (covers material from the midterm exam) (20%)

Class policies:

- 1) You are expected to arrive in class on time and stay for the entire class period. If you know that you will be late to class or that you need to leave early let me know ahead of time.
- 2) Do not eat during class. (You may bring something to drink but don't spill it.)
- 3) If you use a laptop to take notes please sit in the last row of the classroom.
- 4) The papers must be handed in at the beginning of class on the days that they are due. If a paper is late 3% of the grade will be taken off for every day that it is late. A paper handed in after class on the day that it is due will count as one day late. Weekends count as days that a paper is late. *If you hand in a late paper you must make arrangements with me to hand it in. If you hand it in without making arrangements there is a possibility that you will not get credit for the assignment.*
- 5) Communicate with me if you are having a problem, if you do not understand something, or if you have a comment. I am available during office hours and by appointment.
- 6) **You are responsible for keeping track of assignments and the class schedule.** I suggest that you exchange email addresses with another student so that you can catch up on any notes or assignments that you might miss.
- 7) I respond to email Mondays through Fridays, between the hours of 9-5. **If you email me within those hours I will respond within 48 working hours (meaning that an email received on Friday or over the weekend will be returned by Tuesday).** I cannot guarantee a response outside of regular working hours.
- 8) If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Honor Code:

George Mason has an honor code and you are expected to adhere to it. It is as follows:

“To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.”
(http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/#honor_system_and_code)

If I suspect plagiarism or other forms of cheating I will submit my findings to the Honor Committee immediately. **You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism and other kinds of cheating. If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism and cheating ask me for clarification.**

Required texts available for purchase in the bookstore and other booksellers and on reserve in the JC Library:

Kris Lane, *Quito 1599: City and Colony in Transition*

Kenneth Mills, William B. Taylor, Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*

The books are on reserve in the Johnson Center library.

Readings marked with an ** are available online (instructions on accessing them below).
Please bring a printout of the article to class. If you have limited access to a printer, please bring your notes on the article.

Blackboard:

The syllabus, paper assignments, and other information and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You can access it at: <https://gmublackboard.com/webct/logon/35865319001>. You will be asked to provide your name (this is the name in your GMU email address before the @) and password (the password you use to access your GMU email account).

I: Before the Encounter – pre 1492

Week 1 (8/31 – 9/4): Introduction and reading primary sources

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 78 – 90. THIS READING SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY WEDNESDAY.

Week 2 (9/7-9/11): Americas before the encounter

NO CLASS ON MONDAY – Labor Day

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 23 – 26

** Clendinnen, “The Cost of Courage in Aztec Society,” *Past and Present*, no. 107 (May, 1985), pp. 44-89. *Please bring a printout of the article to class. If you have limited access to a printer, please bring your notes on the article.*

This article is available on the JSTOR database at the GMU library website.

To access it, go to the library website and click on “Research Databases” under the “Research Tools” heading. Then click on “j” at the top of the screen, under the heading “Alphabetical list of all databases.” Then click on JSTOR. When you get to the JSTOR homepage, type the article title and/or author into the search box and scroll through the results until you find the article.

Week 3 (9/14-9/18): Old World

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 27 – 58. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Paper assignment #1 handed out on Friday.

The last day to add a class is September 15th.

The last day to drop classes and receive a 100% refund is September 15th.

II: Conquest and Establishing the Colonial Order – 16th and 17th centuries

Week 4 (9/21-9/25): Exploration and Colombian Exchange

Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 59 – 77. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Week 5 (9/28-10/2): Conquest

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham 3-22, 93-112. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Paper #1 due on Friday

The last day to drop a class without obtaining special permission is October 2nd.

Week 6 (10/5-10/9): State and Church

Reading: Reading: Lane, xi – 51

Week 7 (10/12-10/16): Labor

NO CLASS ON MONDAY BUT CLASS ON TUESDAY – Monday classes meet instead of Tuesday.

Reading: Lane, 52 – 112

Midterm on Friday.

Week 8 (10/19-10/23): Population

Reading: Lane, 83 – 149

III: Maintaining Colonial Rule – 17th and 18th centuries

Week 9 (10/26-10/30): Colonial Economies in the World Context

Reading: Lane, 150 – 234

Paper #2 handed out on Friday.

Week 10 (11/2-11/6): Cities and Peripheries

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 113-123, 185 – 195. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard

Week 11 (11/9-11/13): Social Hierarchies

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 198-217, 272-279, 280-296. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Paper #2 due on Friday.

IV. Challenges to Colonial Rule – 18th and 19th centuries

Week 12 (11/16-11/20): Reforms

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 316-319, 360-365. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Week 13 (11/23-11/27): Resistance to the Colonial Order

NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY – Thanksgiving break.

Readings: none.

The material covered in Monday's lecture will appear in detail on the final exam. In other words, don't miss class on Monday.

Week 14 (12/1-12/5): Toward Independence

Reading: Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham, 299-308, 390-396. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents – you will find the template on Blackboard.

Week 15 (12/7-12/11) Independence

** Reading: Bolívar, “Reply of a South American to a Gentleman of this Island [Jamaica]” at <http://faculty.smu.edu/bakewell/BAKEWELL/texts/jamaica-letter.html>.

Mills, Taylor, Lauderdale Graham 397-402. Use the primary source sheets to take notes on these documents (including the Bolívar) – you will find the template on Blackboard.

FINAL EXAM Wednesday December 16 10:30 am – 1:15 pm