**History of Latin America**

HIST 1301, Fall 2013

T/Th 11-12:15, Lalumiere 176

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**Course Description and Learning Objectives**

The twenty-odd nations that constitute “Latin America” share a common Iberian and/or colonial heritage, but are also divided by their particular, local and regional pasts. We will try to sort out the commonalities while paying attention to the differences, in a roughly chronological order. Throughout, inevitably, we will consider Latin America’s relation to the rest of the world. We will also attempt to understand how Latin Americans have understood their own history, by focusing on texts and documents written by Latin Americans themselves. You should leave this class with:

1. A broader understanding of Latin American history than you had coming in,

2. An awareness of different and especially Latin American interpretations of that history,

3. An enhanced ability to assess news reports and commentary on Latin America that you

may encounter in your everyday life, and

4. Perhaps even a desire to learn more.

 This syllabus presents a rough guide to the semester, but things may change as we go along. Your best resource for keeping up with any changes and for accessing information about the course is the class website, <http://academic.mu.edu/matthew/hist1301>

**Required Texts**

Shawn William Miller, *An Environmental History of Latin America*

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Horacio Verbitsky, *Confessions of an Argentine Dirty Warrior*

Lydia Chavez, *Capitalism, God, and a Good Cigar*

All texts are on sale at the Bookmarq and on reserve at the Library; the class password for ARES is *fairuse*. You may read any texts in Spanish if you prefer. Weekly short readings are on D2L under Content.

**Assignments and Grading**

13 Reaction Papers (lowest dropped) 25%

Discussion Section 10%

 4 Quizzes (including 1 map quiz) 20%

Mid-Term Current Events Paper 20%

 Final Current Events Paper 25%

***Reaction Papers*** consolidate your thoughts about the readings for the previous week. Prompts are available on D2L under Content-Weekly Readings. Reaction Papers are due every Sunday evening online in the D2L Dropbox. **No late Reaction Papers will ever be accepted. If your file does not open, you will receive a 0.** I strongly recommend you cut and paste the text of your Reaction Paper into the Dropbox comments box in addition to uploading it as an attachment, as insurance.

***Discussion Section*** meets approximately every other week, on Mondays. It provides an opportunity to discuss the weekly readings with your classmates, ask questions, and prepare for quizzes and papers. Your Discussion grade will be based on attendance, participation, and fulfillment of in-class assignments.

***Quizzes*** are designed to help reinforce your memory of important historical facts and themes from lecture and Miller’s *An Environmental History of Latin America*. They are administered online through the main class site of D2L, are open book and open note, and may be taken at any time up to the due date. You have three opportunities for each quiz; the system will record the highest grade.

Quiz #1 covers lecture material + Miller, Chapters 1-3

Quiz #2 covers lecture material + Miller, Chapters 4-5

Quiz #3 covers lecture material + Miller, Chapters 6-7

***Midterm and Final Papers****.* These formal papers are separate components of an ongoing, semester-long project. You will select a current events topic in Latin America to research **(due Week 4).** The Midterm Paper **(due Week 9)** will explain your topic and why you chose it, and compare, contrast, and analyze your sources. Your research mostly completed, you will spend the second half of the course developing connections between your current event and historical themes we have discussed in class. The Final Paper **(due the last Friday of classes)** should represent the culmination of your thinking about your chosen current event in a deeper, historically minded way. You will receive more information about these assignments in class.

I hope you will tailor your choice of current event to your own personal interests. Is there something that relates to your field of study? Something you wish to understand better when it comes up on the news or in conversation? Take advantage of this open-ended assignment to learn something new and relevant to your life.

There is no midterm or final exam in this course.

***A Note on Attendance and Participation in Lecture*.** Attendance in lecture is taken, and active participation (for instance, responding to questions by the professor) is noted. At the end of the semester I compile these attendance and participation figures while calculating final grades, and use them as ‘extra credit’ to bump up borderline cases (for instance, between an AB and an A, a C and a BC, or even an F and a D). **In accordance with Marquette policy, I may withdraw anyone who misses more than three weeks worth of lecture and/or discussion with a grade of WA.**

The class ***grading scale*** is: A 93 and above

 AB 88-92

 B 83-87

 BC 78-82

 C 73-77

 CD 68-72

 D 60-67

***A Note on Plagiarism****.* Your job in the Reaction Papers, the Midterm Paper, and the Final Paper is to effectively communicate your own thoughts about what you've read -- *not* to amass and re-organize a body of information and analysis written by others.

All work in this class is expected to be your own. Do not cut and paste from the web; borrow from (or just plain borrow) another student’s paper; treat any assignment in this course as a group project; duplicate work from another class without written permission from me; or buy a paper or essay.

Midterm and Final Papers must be submitted through Turnitin in order to be graded. **Papers not submitted to Turnitin will receive a 0***.* There is a link with instructions under Content – Etiquette, Ethics, Etc. The Class ID is 6781180, and the password is *hist1301*. It is your responsibility to sign up for Turnitin using this information*.* See the TA or me if you have any problems.

Cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of your major, will be entered into your permanent university file, and may result in failure of the course. You are expected to know the standards of the MU code of academic honesty and the dos and don’ts of plagiarism, available as links on the course website. When in doubt, ask me or the TA – you will NEVER be penalized for the question.

**Late papers** will be docked a ½ letter grade (for instance, from an A to an AB) for each 24-hour period after the due date that they are late.

**Computer problems** will not be accepted as an excuse for late or poorly executed work. Please keep backups of your written work at all times.

If you have **special needs, athletics conflicts, etc**., you must submit them to me in writing WITHIN THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF CLASS. Issues that arise during the semester must be addressed with me as soon as humanly possible.

**I do not allow use of electronic devices** for note taking or any other purpose in lecture, unless you request special permission. (If I do relent, expect to be assigned a seat in the front corner of the classroom).

In general, if you have any **concerns or questions** about your performance in the class, I strongly encourage you to speak with me or the TA about them, the sooner the better.

**Semester Schedule**

NOTE: All short readings are available under Content on D2L

***-----------------------Weeks 1-3 – From Colony To Nation-----------------------***

**Miller, Chapters 1-3**

**WEEK 1:** Colonial Legacies: God and Gold

 **Discussion Sections meet on Monday!!!!**

Readings: Galeano, “Lust for Silver, Lust for Gold”

**WEEK 2:** Colonial Legacies: Transculturation

 **Reaction Paper #1 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Map Quiz on Thursday in class**

 Readings: Martínez,“Limpieza de Sangre”

 Solórzano Pereira, “The Mestizo: Seed of Tomorrow”

**WEEK 3:** The African Experience in Latin America

 **Reaction Paper #2 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Discussion Sections meet on Monday**

 Readings: “Becoming Legally White in Venezuela”

 Matthew, “The More Things Change”

 Montejo,“A Cuban Slave’s Testimony”

***-----------------------Weeks 4-7 – One Hundred Years of Solitude-----------------------***

**Miller, Chapters 4-5**

**WEEK 4:** Independence for Whom, By Whom?

 **Reaction Paper #3 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Quiz #1 due by Monday at midnight**

 **Current Events Topics due in D2L Dropbox Thursday at midnight**

ReadingsGarcía Márquez, *100 Yrs of Solitude*, pp.1-153 (parts

 1-7)

**WEEK 5:** Nation-Building in the 19th Century

 **Reaction Paper #4 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Discussion Sections meet on Monday**

 Readings: García Márquez, *100 Yrs of Solitude,* pp. 155-313 (parts

 8-14)

**WEEK 6:** Reaction and Revolution

 **Reaction Paper #5 due Sunday at midnight**

 Readings García Márquez, *100 Yrs of Solitude* pp. 315-448 (parts

 15-20)

**WEEK 7:** Populism: A New 'Hundred Years’ Begins

 **Reaction Paper #6 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Discussion Sections meet on Monday**

Readings Perón, “Evita and the People” + “Peronist Feminism”

 Plotkin, “The Fundación Eva Perón”

***-----------------------Weeks 8-11 – Latin America in the Cold War-----------------------***

**Miller, Chapters 6-7**

**WEEK 8:** The Cold War…

 **Reaction Paper #7 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Quiz #2 due by Monday at midnight**

 **No class Thursday - Midterm Break**

 Readings None – work on your midterm paper!

**WEEK 9:** …from Left….

 **Midterm paper due IN HARD COPY in class Tuesday**

 Readings Randall, “Christianity and Revolution”

 Selections from Castro, Guevara, and Yglesias

**WEEK 10**: …To Right

**Reaction Paper #8 due Sunday at midnight**

Readings Selections from Verbitsky, *Confessions of an Argentine*

*Dirty Warrior*

**WEEK 11**: Central America in the 1980s

 **Reaction Paper #9 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Discussion Section meets on Monday**

 Readings “What Happened at Dos Erres”

***------------------------Weeks 12-15 – Contemporary Latin America-----------------------***

**WEEK 12:** Revisiting the Cuban Revolution

 **Reaction Paper #10 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Quiz #3 due by Monday at midnight**

 Readings Chavez, *Capitalism, God, and a Good Cigar*

 Miller, “Epilogue” from *An Environmental History*

**WEEK 13**: Native Americans and Neoliberalism

 **Reaction Paper #11 due Sunday at midnight** **Discussion Section meets on Monday**

 Readings Vargas Llosa, “Questions of Conquest”

 Subcomandante Marcos, “The Long Journey from

 Despair to Hope”

**WEEK 14:** Migration and Immigration

 **Reaction Paper #12 due Sunday at midnight**

 **No class Thursday - Thanksgiving**

 Readings Quinones, “Delfino I”

**WEEK 15:** Cocaine as Commodity

 **Reaction Paper #13 due Sunday at midnight**

 **Discussion Section Meets on Monday**

 **Final Paper due by 4 p.m. Friday IN HARD COPY**

 Readings None

**Turnitin submission required or else we will not grade your paper!**

***Late papers will be docked ½ letter grade for each 24-hour period measured from 4 p.m., Friday, December 6. No papers will be accepted after 3 p.m. the Tuesday after classes end.***