

HIST 271-FALL 2023

**INTRODUCTION TO COLONIAL LATIN AMERICAN
HISTORY (1492-1810)**

T-Th., 4:30-5:45pm

KNOY B033

Prof. Ariel de la Fuente
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by appointment.

Course Description:

This is an introduction to the history of colonial Latin America, from the arrival of Columbus (1492) to the beginning of Independence (1810). The encounter between Natives and Europeans and the subsequent process of colonization entailed profound changes for the former and gave rise to unprecedented economic, political, and cultural circumstances for both. In this course, then, we will study some of the historical specificities that shaped the development of Colonial Latin America, such as the nature of pre-Columbian societies, the economic, military, and ideological dimensions of the Conquest, the formation of a society of “castes”, the construction of an administrative apparatus over vast new territories, the collapse of the Spanish empire in the Americas at the turn of the 19th-century, etc. These historical phenomena would eventually have a significant influence in the formation of modern Latin American nations and, therefore, the course will also point out the continuities between this apparently “distant” history and contemporary realities in the region. Finally, the study of the colonial experience in the origins of Latin America will help students reflect more generally about the importance of European colonialism in the formation of societies on the other side of the Atlantic and, more specifically, about the US.

Learning outcomes: 1) Students will learn about the complexity of the Latin American realities during the formative period of the region. 2) They will be prepared to reflect comparatively about their own history. 3) Students will recognize different forms of historical reflection and will understand the role of critical thinking in the creation of historical knowledge as well as the research challenges that the latter entails. To achieve these goals we will read primary and secondary sources and combine lectures, discussions, essay exams, quizzes, and written assignments.

Books:

- Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, 10th edition (Oxford University Press).
- Ross Hassig, *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest*, 2nd. edition (University of Oklahoma Press).
- Sergio Serulnikov, *Revolution in the Andes: the Age of Tupac Amaru* (Duke University Press).

Any aspect of this syllabus and schedule (including but not limited to exam dates and readings) is subject to change. If a change is necessary I will announce it in class and/or through Brightspace and it is the student's responsibility to be informed about them.

Recording by students of classes, review sessions, or consultation with the instructor, is strictly prohibited and any violation in this respect will be reported to the Dean of Student's Office. Also, in order to allow for a robust and open class experience, students are asked to refrain from posting any images, chats, or videos from our class—including, but not limited to, class discussions, presentations, and lectures--without prior consent of the instructor and every student in our class. **Any student who posts any recording, images, chats, or videos from our class without permission will receive in an automatic F (failure) for the semester and the Dean of Student's Office will be informed.** In addition, content published on Brightspace might be the instructor's intellectual property, therefore, do not publish any content found on Brightspace without prior authorization from said instructor.

Communication Between Instructor and Students: the instructor will communicate with students in class **and/or** via email **and/or** Brightspace announcements; **it is students' responsibility to be aware and remain informed about time sensitive announcements.**

Class notes available on Brightspace: slides with the class notes that I will use in my lectures throughout the semester are already available on Blackboard. I recommend that before each class you look at the one that corresponds to the lecture of the day, so you can familiarize yourself with the subject, historical processes, names, dates, etc. that I will cover in class. You also might want to print the slides and complete them with your own notes during the lecture. This use of my class notes will help you focus on the most relevant material in the lectures, will make your learning less stressful, and, overall, will make our class time way more productive.

Class Schedule, T-Th., 4:30-5:45:

Week 1 (8/22)

Introduction to the course.

Reading: On Learning, Bias, and Understanding (available on Brightspace).

Week 2 (8/29)

America and Iberia before the Conquest: the Maya, the Aztecs, and the Inka. The Spanish Reconquest and the European expansion. **Reading:** textbook, 1-23; 24-25; 28-30.

Week 3 (9/5)

The arrival of Columbus and the occupation of the Caribbean. The Conquests of Mexico and Peru. The "Columbian Exchange". **Reading:** textbook, 40-46; 50-68; 75-76; 78-88.

Week 4 (9/12)

Special reading assignment and **quiz**: Hassig's *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest*.

Week 5 (9/19)

Government and Administration. The Colonial Church and Religion. **Reading:** textbook, 91-100; 104-119.

Week 6 (9/26)

Population and Labor. Native population and its changes. Spaniards. Africans and “Castas”.
Reading: textbook, chap.4.

Week 7 (10/3)

-Review and first exam

Week 8 (10/10)

Oct. Break (10/10);

The Colonial Economy. Silver and Sugar. Trade and Taxation. **Reading:** textbook, 155-177; 178-179; 188.

Week 9 (10/17)

The Social Economy. Estates and Social Hierarchies. The elites, the middle groups, and the poor.
Reading: textbook, chap.6.

Week 10 (10/24)

Special reading assignment and **quiz:** Reis’s *Slave Rebellion in Brazil* (available on Brightspace).

Week 11 (10/31)

Family, Marriage, and Women. Colonial Culture and Crime. **Reading:** textbook, 216-223; 230-233; 234-236; 260-261; 265-274.

Week 12 (11/7)

Caroline Reforms, Crisis, and Independence. **Reading:** textbook, 306-335; 340-346; 351-53.

Week 13 (11/14)

Review and Second Exam

Week 14 (11/21)

Thanksgiving

Week 15 (11/28)

Special Reading Assignment and **quiz:** Serulnikov’s *Revolution in the Andes*.

Week 16 (12/4-12/8)
Final paper due.

Grades will be determined as follows: two exams= 70% (First exam= 35% + Second exam=35%); three quizzes= 18% (6% each); a paper= 12%.

Quizzes: Students will have 20 min. to write the answers. The question will be based on the readings assigned for that week. The purpose of these questions is to work as reading control.

Quizzes and exams will be taken during class time, in the classroom. The days when quizzes and exams are given students should make sure to sign the attendance sheet; otherwise tests will not be counted and students will receive an F.

Attendance of regular class meetings: I will take attendance but I will not assign a specific grade to it; however, I might factor it in your final grade or any other assessment of your overall class performance.

Students must complete all assignments to pass the course.

Grade Scale:

90-100=A
80-89=B
70-79=C
60-69=D
0-59=F

Conduct and ethics: Students are expected to follow the code of honor and academic ethics as set forth in University regulations. Violations of these codes will be penalized according to university regulations.

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace table of contents, under University Policies.

Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by the course instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

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Diversity and inclusion: Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

If you become quarantined or isolated at any point in time during the semester, in addition to support from the Protect Purdue Health Center, you will also have access to an Academic Case Manager who can provide you academic support during this time. Your Academic Case Manager can be reached at acmq@purdue.edu and will provide you with general guidelines/resources around communicating with your instructors, be available for academic support, and offer suggestions for how to be successful when learning remotely. Importantly, if you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify your academic case manager and notify me via email or Brightspace. We will make arrangements based on your particular situation. The Office of the Dean of Students (odos@purdue.edu) is also available to support you should this situation occur.

For unanticipated or emergency conflict, when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email or through Brightspace. When the student is unable to make contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department (765-494-4132) because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, quarantine, or isolation, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students via email or phone at 765-494-1747. Our course Brightspace includes a link on Attendance and Grief Absence policies under the University Policies menu.

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack. Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the Office of the Dean of Students. Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc. sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell. Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your

goals throughout the semester. Sign up is completely free and can be done on BoilerConnect. If you have any questions, please contact Purdue Wellness at evans240@purdue.edu.

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Any student with special needs or a health issue that may affect her/his performance in this course should speak in private with the instructor after class to make the necessary arrangements.