This course surveys Latin American history from pre-Columbian times to the present. It explores economic and social dimensions of the major Amerindian civilizations; the colonial incorporation of the region into the Atlantic economy; the imperial efforts to adjust the colonial space to a changing international order; the emergence of independent and peripheral nation-states and their diverse and also convergent paths of economic, political, social, and cultural development; and the challenges of earlier internationalization trends and current globalization.

Requirements

1. Readings:

Required readings are listed in the course schedule below. A list of books available for purchase follows. All required readings are on Blackboard and marked in this syllabus with an asterisk (*). Blackboard materials are chapters, articles or excerpts of books available at McCabe.

2. Writing:

Two take-home exams aiming at evaluating your capacity in contextualizing and identifying key issues and problems in the making of the Latin American experience. More details about these exams will be provided in class.
For those who are not familiar with modes of historical writing, writing conventions, and source documentation I recommend to read Richard Marius and Melvin Page, A Short Guide to Writing about History. (We will not discuss this book in class; if you have questions about it, do not hesitate to talk to me.)

3. Primary sources and visual materials
In order to do a productive and imaginative work with written documents and video materials I strongly advise you to read as soon as possible three documents I posted in Blackboard (folder On Sources: Marius, Rosenstone, Berkin). Written documents or visual materials assigned for discussion in a certain day are indicated in the schedule that follows. Written documents are marked with (*) and available in Blackboard. Visual materials are on reserve and will be discussed in class in conjunction with specific readings marked with (*) and available in Blackboard. It is advisable to screen video materials before class.
4. Class participation:
Each week reading must be completed prior to class. You should come to every class, be prepared with questions and thoughts about the readings and participate fully in the discussions. I strongly recommend writing a commentary, paragraph, several questions or a brief outline stating your initial reaction to the reading in order to facilitate your participation in class discussions. Active participation is vital to receiving a good final grade. Unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

Books
Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*
Peter Winn, *Americas. The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*
Alma Guillermoprieto, *Samba*

**Tentative Course Schedule.**

**Week 1**
**January 22**
Introduction to course.

**January 24**
The Peripheral Condition of Latin America
Keen Geographical Background (*)
Winn, A View from the South (*Americas*, ch. 1)
Latin American Geography (*)

**January 26**
Overview I
From Pre Columbian Times to 1880s
Skidmore, The Colonial Foundations (*)
Winn, Legacies of Empire (*Americas* ch. 2)

**Week 2**
**January 29**
Overview II
Modern and Contemporary Latin America
Skidmore, The Transformation of Modern Latin America (*)

**January 31**
Overview III
Modern and Contemporary Latin America
Skidmore, The Transformation of Modern Latin America (*)
Reading Statistics (*)

**February 2**
Latin America between the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century
Collier, On Globalization: Two Issues of Critical Concern (*)
Vanden and Prevost, The Political Economy of Latin America (*)
Week 3
February 5
Pre Columbian Times

Lockhart and Schwartz (*)
Hassig, Mesoamerica and the Aztecs (*)

Video material:
The Civilizations of Mexico (in Spain in the New World, v.2)

February 7
Stern, Andean Pre Columbian Landscapes, 2 parts (*)

Video material:
The Incas (in Spain in the New World, v.3)
Primary source:
Acqlas and officials according to Huaman Poma (*)

February 9
The Conquest
Restall, Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest (chapters 1 to 3)

Video materials:
Aguirre, the Wrath of God
Reading: Holloway, Whose Conquest is This, Anyway? (*)

The Conquest of Mexico and Peru (in Spain in the New World, v. 4)

Week 4
February 12
Restall, Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest (chapters 4 to Epilogue)

February 14
Cook, Born to Die (*)

February 16
Colonial System I

The colonial state
Brown, Colonial Institutions, pp. 117-137 (*)

Colonial maps: Trading routes (*)

Week 5
February 19
The church
Brown, Colonial Institutions, pp. 137-149 (*)

Video materials:
The Mission
Readings: Saegger, The Mission and Historical Missions (*)
Blake, The Mission, an Epic of the Soul (*)
McNaspy, Tragic Heroism (*)
I, The Worst of All
Reading: Ramírez, The Literary Life of Sor Juana (*)
February 21
Schwartz, The Landed Elite. 2 parts (*)
Bauer, The Colonial Economy. 2 parts (*)

February 23
Indians
Martin, Indigenous Peoples (*)

Primary source:
Relación Geográfica of Texupa (*)

Week 6
February 26
Slavery
Klein, Blacks. 2 parts (*)

Video material:
The Last Supper
The Other Francisco (optional)
Reading: Mraz, Recasting Cuban Slavery (*)

Primary source:
Will of a Captain (*)

February 28
Crisis of the Colonial Order
Brown, The Failure to Avert the Colonial Crisis, 2 Parts (*)

Colonial maps: Viceroyalties in Latin America by 1780 (*)

March 2
Halperin Donghi, The Crisis of Independence (*)
Bakewell, Adrift in Storms: Caudillos and Penury (*)

Video material:
The Price of Freedom (in The Buried Mirror, part IV)

Primary sources:
Bolivar’s letter, 1815 (*)
Bolivar’s letter, 1829 (*)

Week 7
March 5
Nation Building and Modernization in Argentina
Winn, The Perils of Progress (Americas, chapter 3)
Scobie, Social Structure and Cultural Themes in Buenos Aires (*)

March 7
Peronist Argentina
Winn, A Second Independence? (Americas, chapter 4)
James, Peronism and the Working Class, 2 parts (*)
Evita by Evita (*)

Video materials:
Evita
Evita: The Woman Behind the Myth
Eva Peron: The True Story

March 9
Populism in Latin America
Connif, Populism in Latin America, Introduction (*)
Connif, Populism in Latin America, Epilogue (*)

Week 8
Spring Vacation

Week 9
First take home exam due

March 19
Military Governments and Transition towards Democracy in Brazil
Winn, Capital Sins (Americas, pp. 159-192)

Video material:
Americas, part 2: Capital Sins: Authoritarianism and Democratization

March 21
Skidmore, Rule of the Military (*)

Primary sources:
Military role in politics (*)
Torture in Brazil (*)
Lula (*)

March 23
Socialism, Dictatorship and Re-democratization in Chile

Skidmore, Socialism via Democracy? (*)
Winn, Capital Sins (Americas, pp. 192-199)

Week 10
March 26
Gender
Winn, In Women’s Hands (Americas, 9)

mexico and reproductive health

Primary sources on Mothers of Plaza de Mayo
Mellibovsky(*)
Agosin (*)

Video material:
Americas, part 9: In Women’s Hands

March 28
Migration, urbanization, informality I
Winn, Continent on the Move (Americas, chapter 6)

Video material:
Americas, part 3: Continent of the Move

March 30
Migration, urbanization, informality II

Lobo, A House of my Own (*)
Doughty, Behind the Back of the City (*)

Primary sources:
Urban Informality in Photos (*)

**Week 11**

**April 2**
Migration, urbanization, informality III

Lobo, A House of my Own (*)
Doughty, Behind the Back of the City (*)

Primary sources:
Urban Informality in Photos (*)

**April 4**
Ethnicity
Winn, Children of the Sun (*Americas*, chapter 7)
Warren, Transforming Memories (*)

Video materials:
*Americas*, part 4, first half (focused on Bolivia) of *Mirrors of the Heart*
*Martin Chambi, Heir of the Incas* (optional)

**April 6**
Race
Winn, A Question of Color (*Americas*, chapter 8)

Video material:
*Americas*, part 4, second half (focused on the Dominican Republic) of *Mirrors of the Heart*

**Week 12**

**April 9**
Revolution
Winn, Making Revolution (*Americas*, chapter 13)
Skidmore, Mexico (*)

Video Material:
*Americas*, part 5, *Fire in the Mind*

**April 11**
Skidmore, Cuba, Late Colony, First Socialist State, 2 parts (*)

**April 13**
Skidmore, Nicaragua, From Dynasty to Revolution (*)
The Shining Path, 2 parts (*)

Video materials:
*Terror and Counter-terror: Can Democracy Survive?*
*La Boca del Lobo / The Lion’s Den*

**Week 13**
Popular Culture

**April 16**
Winn, The Magical and the Real (*Americas*, chapter 11)
Manuel, Marxism, Nationalism and Popular Music in Revolutionary Cuba (*)

**April 18**
Guillermoprieto, *Samba*
Parker, The Carnivalization of the World (*)

Video materials:
*Black Orpheus*

**April 20**
Archetti, Football in Latin America (*)

**Week 14**
**April 23**
Religion
Winn, The Power and the Glory (*Americas*, 10)
Phillip Berryman, "Latin American Liberation Theology since the 1960s" (*)

Video Materials:
*Americas*, part 6, *Miracles are not Enough*

**April 25**
US-Latin American Relations
Smith, Talons of the Eagle (*)

**April 27**
Reading Cartoons on US-Latin American Relations (*)

**Week 15**
**April 30**
Recapitulation

**May 2**
Recapitulation

**May 4**
Recapitulation

**May 5**
Second take home exam due