History 334 – Indians, Spaniards and the Struggle for Colonial Latin America

- Professor Baskes, Elliott 109, ext. 3638
- Office Hours (Just call or stop by for appointments)
- Spring 2004

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is an upper-level course on the colonial history of Latin America. The colonial period began with the arrival of Spaniards and Portuguese to the Americas in the last years of the fifteenth century and ended in most of the region with political independence during the 1820s. This course begins by introducing students to the advanced and complex pre-Columbian Indian civilizations of Mesoamerica and the Andes. The Spanish conquest of the Americas and the clash of civilizations which occurred occupies several weeks. The bulk of the course examines the social, economic and political institutions of colonial Spanish America. The class concludes with the region's independence and the formation of sovereign nations.

**READINGS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE:** The student is required to obtain and read the following books as well as the packet of photocopies.


5. Photocopy Packet (to be purchased at history department) Readings in packet denoted by ***.

**CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

**Reading reviews:** Students will be required to write short reaction papers (1-2 pages) to each week's readings to be submitted on Thursday, discussion day. Students should comment on the authors' arguments, bring up points that were not entirely clear, and give general assessments of the "success" of the readings. These are not intended to be formal papers rather the student should use them to think about and reflect on the readings and their significance and to better prepare themselves to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. These brief papers should be typed.

**Exams:** Both the mid-term and final will be take-home exams. Consult syllabus for dates.

**Class Participation:** This course is designed to maximize discussion of materials, and so all students will be required and expected to participate extensively on a daily basis. In addition to regular involvement in class, students will take turns as discussion leaders, introducing class readings, preparing questions to spark conversation, and generally guiding the discussion. The professor will provide additional information in the coming weeks.

**Comparative Book Review:** Each student will prepare a 2000 word (normally 6 to 8 pages) paper critically comparing two related monographs on a subject pertinent to colonial (not pre-conquest) Latin America. Students must submit full citations of the books to the professor for advanced approval before class Thursday of Week 4 (Feb. 5). The final reviews are due in class on Thursday of Week 14 (Apr. 22). For greater details regarding this major assignment, please consult the attached guidelines.
**Paper Presentation:** Students will formally present their comparative book review paper to the rest of the class in the final week of the semester. Presentations should be approximately 12 minutes, should not be read, and should inform the rest of the class about the central issues addressed in the monographs compared. To organize your ideas, use the guidelines provided for the actual paper.

**Late Papers:** All work is due at the start of class on the day stipulated in this syllabus. Any work submitted late will be penalized one full letter grade immediately and an additional grade per day.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students caught plagiarizing (or cheating in any way) will be failed for the course and reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

**Grades:** Final grade will be determined as follows:

- Weekly Reading Reviews – 15%
- General Class Participation – 15%
- Discussion Leading – 10%
- Comparative Book Review – 20%
- Paper Presentation - 5%
- Mid-term Exam - 15%
- Final Exam - 20%

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1: (Jan 13 & 15) America Before 1492**


**Week 2: (Jan 20 & 22) Spain Before 1492 and Exploration**


**Week 3: (Jan 27 & 29) The Conquest – Part 1**


**Week 4: (Feb 3 & 5) The Conquest - Part 2**


Stern, Steve J., *Peru’s Indian Peoples and the Challenges of Spanish Conquest*. ch. 2.


- Thurs. Feb 5 - Full citations due in class for comparative book review (see guidelines).
Week 5: (Feb 10 & 12) Religion and the Ideological Conquest of America


Stern, Steve J. *Peru’s Indian Peoples and the Challenges of Spanish Conquest*. ch. 3.

Week 6: (Feb 17 & 19) Biological Conquest of America


*** Mann, Charles C., ”1491,” *The Atlantic Monthly*; March 2002; Volume 289, No. 3; 41-53.


Week 7: (Feb 24 & 26) Economic Conquest of America (Early Colonial Economy)


Stern, Steve J., *Peru’s Indian Peoples and the Challenges of Spanish Conquest*. ch. 4.


Week 8: (March 2 & 4) Exam Week

- Take Home Exam due on Tuesday at start of class. (No extensions whatsoever!)
- Exam question will be distributed on previous Thursday (2/26) in class
- Thursday class T.B.A.

Week 9: (March 16 & 18) Race and Class in Colonial Spanish America


Week 10: (March 23 & 25) Women in Colonial Spanish America


Week 11: (March 30 & April 1) Mature Colonial Economy


Week 12: (April 6 & 8) Indigenous Resistance and Rebellion

Stern, Steve J., *Peru’s Indian Peoples and the Challenges of Spanish Conquest*. ch. 5.


Week 13: (April 13 & 15) Spain and Late Colonial (Bourbon) Reforms


• Thurs. April 22 - Comparative book review due in class.

Week 14: (April 20 & 22) Independence


Week 15: (April 27 & 29) Student Presentations

• Final exam questions to be distributed on Thursday.

• Final exam due at the hour scheduled by the Registrar for start of final exam.
Guidelines for the Preparation of a Comparative Critical Book Review

The major assignment of this course is a 2000 word (normally 6 to 8 pages) critical comparative review of two monographs (books examining a single narrowly defined topic). The books’ topics need not be identical, but they should examine similar issues or themes in Colonial (not pre-conquest) Latin America. (e.g. two studies of marriage in colonial Mexico; two works on the treatment of slaves in Brazil; two accounts of the conquest of Peru). Books must be secondary sources written by professional historians. You are responsible for selecting your own books, but you must submit to the professor for prior approval full citations of the books. Your selections will be due on Thursday Feb. 5 (Week 4).

The paper should be critical analysis; it should not be a mere summary of the books. You should examine the different ways that the two authors address the similar issues. How do they approach their topic similarly or differently? Are their conclusions the same or do they differ in certain ways (it’s doubtful that they are identical.) You should consider the authors’ differing biases, values, or methodologies. Consider the sources that each uses. How might their different sources have influenced their conclusions? What does each work argue? (i.e. what is its thesis?) How does each monograph succeed or fail?

The comparative book review should be organized as a single essay which synthesizes the two works. You should not divide the paper into two sections, each dealing with one of the works. Instead you should move back and forth between the two monographs discussing and analyzing their respective treatment of issues. You should not title the essay or include a cover page. Instead, you should provide full citations of the books at the top of page 1. You should not place the book titles in the body of the paper.

At places you might employ quotations in order to present more effectively an author’s point or argument. This is fine, but these should be limited in total number and should never be lengthy. It is not ideal to quote more than a sentence or two in any single place. When you do quote, you must cite the quotation by placing the author’s name in parentheses followed by the page number, for example (Smith, 213). Throughout the paper, however, you should make references to specific portions of the book. If, for example, you suggest that an author makes a particular argument, then you should cite where such an argument appeared. You need to do this even if you do not use a direct quotation. An example: “Smith argues that slaves in colonial Brazil were treated better than their counterparts in the British colonies.” (Smith, 88).

You might find it helpful to consult a professional journal to see how professional historians produce book reviews. Such journals are readily available for examination in Beeghly, lower level. One especially useful journal to examine is Latin American Research Review as this one regularly includes comparative reviews (Review Essays) of multiple works.

Papers will be evaluated (i.e. graded) for content and writing style (clarity, grammar, syntax, spelling, organization, etc.).

The final paper is due in class on Thurs. April 22 (Week 14).