

HSTR 130D: Latin American History

LewH 304

Fall 2009

Dr. James W. Martin

Office: Reid Hall 349

Office Hours: W 1000-1200



This class provides an introduction to the history of Latin America from the eve of European contact (1492) to the present. Two principle themes weave throughout the course: (1) Latin America's unequal relationship to the centers of imperial power in Europe and North America and (2) inequalities within Latin American nations—their maintenance through a variety of means and popular resistance to the same. To the extent possible, the course will cover the region as a whole; in some instances it will use more localized case studies to illustrate certain dynamics.

Required texts include the following, available at the university bookstore:

- John Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*
- John Chasteen and James Wood, eds., *Problems in Modern Latin American History*
- Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War*

Your reaction to all of our source material is vital to the course's success. I advise you to allow yourself plenty of time to read, take notes, and develop questions or comments that you can refer to in your papers or in discussion sections. You should consider lectures an opportunity to hone your listening skills by taking notes, developing questions along the way, and making connections to the readings. I welcome reasoned discussion, questions, and debate at any time.

Student Evaluation:

- Attendance (10 percent): Your attendance at lectures is vital to your success in the course. On a few occasions at random throughout the semester, I will take attendance, and those days will determine this portion of your grade.
- Short essays (40 percent): I will ask you to write two short essays. I will provide stylistic guidelines and topics for these essays. I will not accept late work.
- Midterm exam (15 percent)
- Final Exam (15 percent): Exam time is determined by the registrar's office. Our exam is 18 December (Friday) from 2:00pm to 3:50pm. Do not make conflicting travel arrangements.
- Discussion section (20 percent): You are required to attend once-weekly discussion sections, which are run by the class's teaching assistants. Failure to pass this section will result in a failing grade for the course.

Academic dishonesty: As per university regulations and as a sign of respect for all students, I will not tolerate those who pass off others' work as their own.

Please observe these norms of classroom courtesy: do not arrive late to class, treat anyone disrespectfully, or eat. Do not sleep in my presence. Please turn off cell phones before coming to class.

Instructor availability: I am at your service to offer any help I can on the material. I encourage you to see me during my office hours (Wednesday 1000–1200) or, if those times won't work for you, by appointment. The

most reliable means of reaching me is by e-mail at the following address: jameswm@montana.edu. Please do not leave messages with the history department office staff. If you have a condition or circumstance that requires accommodation, please see me outside class.

Recommended Books: The following texts bear directly on the content or methodology of this course. They can be had for just a few dollars each if you buy used.

- Strunk, William and E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Needham Heights, Mass.: Allyn & Son, 2000. The classic guide to developing a clear, effective writing voice.
- A GOOD PAPER DICTIONARY. Not the one in MS Word. Not spell check. No gimmicks. When you don't know a word you are reading or can't remember how to spell something, look it up, write it down, and make it yours.

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COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1 (31 August–4 Sept): Introduction; The Americas on the Eve of Conquest; Processes of Conquest

Week 2 (7–11 September):

- Monday: NO CLASSES—Labor Day
- NO LECTURE MEETING THIS WEEK (DISCUSSIONS SECTIONS WILL MEET)

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, “Introduction” and chap. 1, “Encounter.”

Week 3 (14–18 September): Colonialism

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap 2, “Colonial Crucible”
“Legacies of Colonialism.” (e-reserve on Renne library webpage)

Week 4 (21–25 September): Slavery

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 3, “Independence.”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap II, “Slave Culture.”

Week 5 (28 September– 2 October): Independence

- Thursday: Bolívar and *criollo* independence; ESSAY # 1 DUE IN CLASS

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 4, “Postcolonial Blues”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. I, “Independence and its Consequences”

Week 6 (5–9 October): Liberalism and Caudillismo

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 5, “Progress.”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. III “Caudillos” and chap. IV,
“Liberalism and the Catholic Church.”

Week 7 (12–16 October): “Ties of Singular Intimacy”: the United States and Latin America, 1898–1940

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 6, “Neocolonialism.”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. V, “Race and Nationbuilding” and chap. VI, “Neocolonialism.”

Week 8 (19–23 October): Nationalism I: The Mexican Revolution

➤ Thursday: Midterm exam

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 7, “Nationalism.”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. VII, “Nationalism.”

Week 9 (2–30 October): Nationalism II: Populism, 1930s–1950s

Readings: *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, chap. IX, “Populism and the Working Class.”

Week 10 (2–6 November): The Cold War in Latin America

Readings: Begin Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. XI, “Latin America, the United States, and the Cold War.”

Week 11 (9–13 November): Social Revolution

➤ 11 November: NO CLASS—VETERAN’S DAY

Readings: Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*, 1–84.

Week 12 (16–20 November): Reaction

Readings: Finish Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*, 85–304.

Week 13 (23–27 November): Political Polarization along Racial and Political Lines

➤ 25–27 November: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14 (30 November–4 December): Recent Developments in Latin America

➤ Thursday: Conclude “A Place Called Chiapas.” ESSAY # 2 DUE IN CLASS

Readings: *Born in Blood and Fire*, chap. 10, “Neoliberalism.”
Problems in Modern Latin American History, chap. XIII, “Globalization.”

Week 15 (7–11 December): Recent Developments in Latin America

➤ Thursday: Student evaluations, final exam review, and course wrap-up

FINAL EXAM: 18 December 2009, 2:00–3:50 pm, regular classroom. Do not make conflicting travel arrangements.