HISTORY 130: COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This course provides an overview of colonial Latin American history during the 16th, 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. The focus shall encompass the American colonies of Spain, Portugal and France.

Learning Objectives:

1. To identify major periods and figures in colonial Latin America.
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the narrative framework and factual basis of colonial Latin America.
3. To identify and analyze the important political, economic, social, intellectual and religious forces that shaped the above period.
4. To summarize and interpret the continuity and change that occurs in colonial Latin America.
5. To demonstrate the ability to develop a thesis and support it with historical evidence both in writing and orally.
6. To demonstrate basic research skills by locating and using source materials.
7. To summarize, paraphrase and quote historical information in properly cited written analyses.
8. To demonstrate the ability to state and support an interpretation of historical issues concisely, coherently and logically.

Grades will be based on the following rubric:

First essay: 33%
Second essay: 33%
Take home final exam: 34%

All essays will be assigned at least two weeks in advance. Late work will not be accepted for any reason nor shall extensions be granted. In addition, either of the first two essays may be rewritten for a higher grade. Last but not least, class participation is roundly encouraged. Those who participate on a regular basis and do so in constructive fashion will gain up to five points on their final mark.

My office hours are 12:30-1:30pm on Mondays and 5-6pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in A-325C. Please stop by for any reason, especially for assistance in understanding the lectures, readings or essay assignments.

As a matter of etiquette and basic respect, cell phones must be turned off once class begins. Under no circumstances is texting permissible and those who do so may be asked to leave.

Lastly, in accordance with school policy, academic dishonesty of any sort shall not be tolerated. Students must submit their own work and properly credit all outside sources. Essays bearing the marks of plagiarism shall receive a grade of 0 and will greatly damage any chance for success in the class.
Required Primary and Secondary Sources:
A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies by Bartolomé de las Casas
Slave Revolution in the Caribbean 1789-1804: A Brief History with Documents edited by Laurent Dubois and John Garrigus
The History of Latin America: Collision of Cultures by Marshall Eakin

Please note that copies of all the books above will be available on reserve throughout the semester at the Bergen Community College library.

Class Calendar:

Part I: Conquest
January 23: Re-conquest of the Iberian Peninsula
January 25: The Voyages of Columbus
January 30: Settlement in the Caribbean
February 1: The Columbian Exchange: Epidemic Diseases
February 6: Hernán Cortés Arrives in Mexico
February 8: The Cholula Massacre
February 13: The Aztec Empire Falls
February 15: Francisco Pizarro Overthrows the Incas
February 20: Spaniards in Peru Bicker over Spoils
February 22: A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies

Part II: Colonial Latin American Societies
February 27: Early Settlement in Brazil
First Paper Due
February 29: The Atlantic Slave Trade
March 5: The Discovery of Gold and Diamonds in Brazil
March 7: The Golden Age of Brazil
March 12: Silver Mining & the Economy of Mexico and Peru
March 14: Land and Labor
March 26: Commerce and Smuggling
March 28: Piracy
April 2: The Spiritual Conquest
April 4: Blending Religious Traditions

Part III: Independence
April 9: Conspiracy and Rebellion
Second Essay Due
April 11: Saint-Domingue, France’s Wealthiest Colony
April 16: Racial and Social Tensions on Saint-Domingue
April 18: Haiti: Latin America’s First Independent Nation
April 23: Independence in Brazil
April 25: Independence in Spanish America
April 30: Simón Bolívar and the Liberation of Gran Colombia
May 2: Father Hidalgo’s Grito de Dolores
May 7: Agustín de Iturbide Wins Independence for Mexico
May 9: Take Home Exam Due