

History 440-084 (#12374)  
**History of Latin America to 1824**

**SYLLABUS**

Fall Quarter, 2008  
Online section (WWW)  
<http://blackboard.latech.edu>

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The purpose of History 440 is to introduce the advanced student to the most significant events and personalities, trends and issues associated with the historical development of the Spanish and Portuguese empires in America, from the earliest voyages of discovery and conquest in the late fifteenth century to the movements for national independence in the early nineteenth century. Familiarity with this period in history affords a point of comparison to understand the quite different early history of English-speaking America, as well as the historical roots of contemporary conditions in Latin America. An important focus of History 440 is the effect on New World lands and peoples of the expansion of such Western European institutions as commercial capitalism and the modern nation state, and especially this process as experienced by persons marginalized by race/ethnicity, class, or gender.

THIS SYLLABUS IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS CONTENTS. PLEASE KEEP IT WITH YOUR CLASS NOTES AND BE PREPARED TO REFER TO IT DURING CONFERENCES WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES.** The Department of History has defined the essential objectives of this course. It is expected that the student who successfully completes this course will achieve the following:

- Greater familiarity with the history of a non-western region and culture, specifically Latin America
- Strengthened development of analytical and critical skills, as reflected in the ability to use such skills in critical analysis of historical events and situations
- Strengthened development of communications skills, as reflected in the ability to use written language effectively to defend propositions, develop arguments, and explain ideas and events
- Strengthened research skills, as reflected in the ability to locate, gather, analyze, and synthesize complex information, and to draw conclusions based upon it

Achievement of these objectives will be assessed on the basis of written work submitted, as specified in QUIZZES and PAPERS, and other exercises as described elsewhere in this syllabus.

There are additional objectives and assessment methods for graduate students. See GRADUATE CREDIT below.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT ONLINE LEARNING.** This course is designed to be delivered online. There are no scheduled class meetings. As explained below, learning is to be accomplished through the guided use of textual materials, including four books, fourteen lectures, individual choices of selected films, and occasional short readings. Learning is assessed through one online objective quiz, three online subjective quizzes, and two other written submissions to be delivered electronically. Essential course documents will be found on the *Blackboard* page for this course. Be sure to note deadlines and instructions for all assignments. This means checking *Blackboard* announcements and your own email on a daily basis.

SUCCESS IN ONLINE COURSES DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE INITIATIVE, MOTIVATION, AND SELF-DISCIPLINE OF THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS AT ANY STAGE OF THIS COURSE, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED.** For the online version of History 440 you will need the following:

- Reliable, consistent, and regular access to email and the Internet
- Adobe Acrobat reader for .pdf files

- Copies of the four assigned books (see Required Reading, below)
- Physical access to the Reserve Desk at Prescott Memorial Library, or, lacking that, a membership in Netflix or a similar film rental service with a good inventory of foreign films.

**UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE.** Be aware that I assume that you have read the University Honor Code and that you agree to be bound by it, and that you accept for yourself the Honor Code Statement, which reads: "*Being a student of a higher standard, I pledge to embody the principles of academic integrity.*" Among other things, this means that you promise that you will not cheat on examinations or commit plagiarism on written assignments. It also means that you will not assist or enable anyone else to do so.

If you are not familiar with the Honor Code, you should read it immediately. It is in your student handbook and also online at <http://www.latech.edu/documents/honor-code.pdf>

**ABOUT BLACKBOARD.** For your convenience, this section uses the *Blackboard* course management software platform, which allows you to retrieve necessary documents, keep up-to-date with posted announcements, communicate with me and with other members of the class, and perform other tasks related to the course. You need to familiarize yourself with the *Blackboard* pages for this section, and you also need to ensure that the e-mail address provided for you on *Blackboard* is correct. This is your responsibility. Be aware that your failure to keep up with *Blackboard* and to ensure that your e-mail address is correct and current will *not* be accepted as an excuse for missed or late assignments or other tasks.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.** In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation that prevents classes from meeting as scheduled, this course will continue as planned. Should an emergency situation occur it is your responsibility to check e-mail and *Blackboard* announcements for instructions. It is also your responsibility to ensure that you provide *Blackboard* with a currently functioning e-mail address.

**REQUIRED READING.** You will be expected to master the material in the following books, available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

- Clendinnen, Inga. *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatán, 1517-1570*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, Engl.: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Lovell, W. George. *Conquest and Survival in Colonial Guatemala: A Historical Geography of the Cuchumatán Highlands, 1500-1821*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Kingston, Ont.: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005.
- Martín, Luís. *Daughters of the Conquistadores: Women of the Viceroyalty of Peru*. Dallas, Tex.: Southern Methodist University Press, 1989.
- Mattoso, Katia M. de Queiros. *To Be A Slave in Brazil, 1550-1888*. Trans. Arthur Goldhammer. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1986.

There will also be a number of short supplemental readings, as noted on the COURSE CALENDAR. Supplemental readings can be accessed on the Internet through ELECTRONIC RESERVE, using the appropriate links that you will find on *Blackboard*.

There is no conventional textbook for History 440. For each lecture unit, you will have electronic access to a set of written lecture notes, which will provide detailed background for the assigned reading and other tasks.

**SUGGESTED READING.** Additional reading suggestions will be found on *Blackboard* under COURSE DOCUMENTS : LINKS AND SUGGESTED READINGS.

**FILMS.** The following feature films which address themes discussed in this course are on reserve for History 440 at the Circulation Desk on the main floor of Prescott Memorial Library: If you do not have physical access to Prescott Library, it is suggested that you subscribe to Netflix or a similar film rental service with a good inventory of foreign films.

- Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (dir. Werner Herzog; Germany, 1977, 94 min., R)
- Cabeza de Vaca* (dir. Nicolás Echeverría; Mexico, 1991, 98 min., R)
- How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman* (dir. Nelson Pereira dos Santos; Brazil, 1971, 80 min., NR [nudity]).
- I, the Worst of All* (dir. María Luisa Bemberg; Argentina, 1990, 100 min. NR)
- The Last Supper* (dir. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea; Cuba, 1976, 100 min., NR)
- The Mission* (dir. Roland Joffé; U.S., 1986, 125 min., PG)
- Quilombo* (dir. Carlos Diegues; Brazil, 1983, 120 min., NR)

Suggestions for films to be viewed in connection with particular lecture topics are offered in the COURSE CALENDAR, below. Also, as explained below, a reaction paper will be due on the film of your choice.

These films, five of which are Latin America-produced, are not widely exhibited in this country, so this is a rare opportunity to become familiar with the artistic production of a major foreign film industry. You should be aware that most of the films shown are Not Rated, and that many contain adult themes and situations, including violence, sexuality, and nudity. It is assumed that serious students will be able to analyze and discuss adult-life situations in a mature, non-judgmental fashion. Students who anticipate difficulty in doing so should consult the instructor immediately. More information on specific films can be found on *Blackboard*, under DOCUMENTS.

**MAP QUIZ.** Because a general familiarity with the geography of Latin America is essential to any understanding of its historical development, there will be a brief online map quiz. The Map Quiz will be administered according to the following schedule:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE AVAILABLE ONLINE</u>	<u>DEADLINE TO COMPLETE</u>	<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
Map Quiz	Thur., Sept. 11, at 8:00 a.m.	Thurs., Sept. 18, at 5:00 p.m.	See handouts for Map Quiz on <i>Blackboard</i> under COURSE DOCUMENTS	20 pts.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAP QUIZ:**

- *Blackboard* will be programmed to allow you one week to have access to have access to the Map Quiz. You may decide, therefore, when you will actually take the quiz.
- The Map Quiz will be taken online. Once you log on and begin the quiz, *Blackboard* will allow you 60 minutes to complete it. Should some technical problem, such as a server or power outage, interrupt you while you are taking the quiz, call or e-mail me and I will arrange for *Blackboard* to let you back in and start again. The possibility of such an event is quite real, and it is a good reason NOT to wait until the last minute to take a quiz.
- Instructions for the map quiz will be found on the *Blackboard* site for this course, under COURSE DOCUMENTS. The quiz itself will be posted on *Blackboard*, under ASSIGNMENTS.
- Challenges to reported grades based on claims of technology failure or malfunction must be made and resolved by no later than one week after the date on which the grade is first posted on *Blackboard*. After that time, the grade reported will be considered final and it will not be changed.

**UNIT QUIZZES.** There will be three Unit Quizzes, which will be set up on *Blackboard* to be completed offline and submitted electronically, as follows:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE AVAILABLE ONLINE</u>	<u>DEADLINE TO COMPLETE</u>	<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
First Unit Quiz	Thurs., Sept. 25, at 8:00 a.m.	Thurs., Oct. 2, at 5:00 p.m.	Clendinnen, short readings, and lectures to date	50 pts.
Second Unit Quiz	Thurs., Oct. 18, at 8:00 a.m.	Thurs., Oct. 25, at 5:00 p.m.	Martín, short readings, and lectures since first quiz.	50 pts.
Third Unit Quiz	Thurs., Nov. 6, at 8:00 a.m.	Thurs., Nov. 13, at 5:00 p.m.	Mattoso, short readings, and lectures since second quiz.	50 pts.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UNIT QUIZZES:**

- *Blackboard* will be programmed to allow you one week to have access to each quiz. You may decide, therefore, when you will actually take the quiz.
- The Unit Quizzes will be done offline and submitted to the DIGITAL DROPBOX on *Blackboard* by the date and time shown above. Unit Quizzes must be typewritten or word processed and they must be double spaced. They must have a title expressive of the topic and issues being addressed and your name must appear in the upper right hand corner of the first page. The pages must be numbered. Submissions must be in Rich Text format (.rtf) or in Word 2003 or earlier (.doc).
- Unit Quiz papers must meet the minimum standards of composition, grammar, and spelling demanded in the introductory freshman writing course (English 101).

- Unit Quiz papers submitted late will be penalized by 10 percent. Papers more than a week past due will receive no credit at all.
- Unit Quiz papers found to contain plagiarized material or evidence of other academic misconduct will receive a grade of zero on the project and a referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs.
- Challenges to reported grades based on claims of technology failure or malfunction must be made and resolved by no later than one week after the date on which the grade is first posted on *Blackboard*. After that time, the grade reported will be considered final and it will not be changed.

**REACTION PAPERS.** There will be two Reaction Papers, due as follows:

<b><u>DATE DUE</u></b>	<b><u>TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>WEIGHT</u></b>
Thurs., Oct. 11, at 5:00 p.m.	Lovell, <i>Conquest and Survival</i>	40 pts.
Thurs., Nov. 6, at 5:00 p.m.	A film chosen from the list provided. See FILMS, above.*	40 pts.
*You must let me know which film you will be writing on no later than Thurs., Sept. 25, at 5:00 p.m.		

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT REACTION PAPERS:**

- A proper Reaction Paper will be a brief (3-5 pp.) critical response to the work in question.
- A proper Reaction Paper will not be a mere summary of the material, but rather it will be a legitimate attempt to engage with the author's ideas (or biases), to assess the historical or artistic significance of the work or to comment on how the work fits in with issues raised in the class. These categories do not exhaust the possibilities. You may also criticize or examine a specific aspect of the work that you think is important.
- A proper Reaction Paper will be clear, relevant, and analytical.
- A Reaction Paper must meet the minimum standards of composition, grammar, and spelling demanded in the introductory freshman writing course (English 101).
- Reaction Papers will be done offline and submitted to the DIGITAL DROPBOX on *Blackboard* by the date and time shown above. Reaction Papers must be double spaced. They must have a title expressive of the topic and issues being addressed and your name must appear in the upper right hand corner of the first page. The pages must be numbered. Submissions must be in Rich Text format (.rtf) or in Word 2003 or earlier (.doc).
- Reaction Papers submitted late will be penalized by 10 percent. Papers more than a week past due will receive no credit at all.
- Reaction Papers found to contain plagiarized material or evidence of other academic misconduct will receive a grade of zero on the project and a referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs.
- Challenges to reported grades based on claims of technology failure or malfunction must be made and resolved by no later than one week after the date on which the grade is first posted on *Blackboard*. After that time, the grade reported will be considered final and it will not be changed.

**GRADES.** Final grades in this course are based on a total of 250 possible points, distributed as follows: Unit Quizzes 150 pts., Reaction Papers 80 pts.; Map Quiz 20 pts.

Letter grade equivalencies will be as follows: A=225 or above; B=200-224½; C=175-199½; D=150-174½; F=below 150.

The determination of the final letter grade is based exclusively on the total number of points earned. It is not based on averages. A statement by you or by anyone else claiming to speak on your behalf that you “need” a certain grade to keep a scholarship, to remain in a particular curriculum, to participate in a particular extracurricular activity, or for any other purpose, will not be a factor in this determination. Please do not ask.

**GRADUATE CREDIT.** For graduate students, an additional objective of History 440 is to become familiar with the most important historical literature in the field of colonial Latin American history, as well as some of the principal interpretive disputes. To this end, if you are taking History 440 for graduate credit, you will prepare an additional paper in the form of a historiographical essay, in which your purpose will be to analyze and compare a significant body of secondary work on a topic of your choice. You are strongly advised to contact me early and regularly to discuss your project. Graduate students must contact me by Thurs., Sept. 18, 2008, to discuss topic choices and appropriate readings. All graduate credit projects are due no later than Thurs., Nov. 6, 2008.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GRADUATE PAPERS:**

- Graduate project papers should be from 6 to 8 pages in length and are subject to the same expectations and policies as stated for reaction papers, above.
- Papers handed in late will be penalized by 10 percent. Papers more than a week past due will receive no credit at all.
- Graduate projects found to contain plagiarized material or evidence of other academic misconduct will receive a grade of zero on the project and a referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs.
- Challenges to reported grades based on claims of technology failure or malfunction must be made and resolved by no later than one week after the date on which the grade is first posted on *Blackboard*. After that time, the grade reported will be considered final and it will not be changed.
- *If the graduate project is not done, or if it is unacceptable or more than one week overdue, the highest grade a graduate student can receive in History 440 is "D".*

**EXTRA CREDIT.** Except as may be specified elsewhere in this syllabus, or as announced in class from time to time, extra credit is not available in this course. When and if made, extra credit assignments will apply to the entire class and must be completed by the date specified in the assignment. In no case will an extra credit assignment be provided for the exclusive benefit of an individual student. Please do not ask.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.** If you require special testing or classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it will be your responsibility to provide me with the required documentation in a timely fashion. You must contact me as soon as possible so that I can make the necessary arrangements early in the quarter. All requests for accommodations under ADA must be accompanied by written certification from the Office of Disabled Student Services, Wyly Tower 318, campus extension 4221. The ODS web page is <http://www.latech.edu/ods/>

**APPEALS OF GRADES BASED ON CLAIMS OF TECHNOLOGY FAILURE.** Challenges to reported grades based on claims of technology failure or malfunction must be made and resolved by no later than one week after the date on which the grade is first posted on *Blackboard*. After that time, the grade reported will be considered final and it will not be changed.

**RETENTION OF GRADED MATERIALS.** In the event of a question regarding an examination grade or final grade, it will be the responsibility of the student to retain and present graded materials which have been returned for student possession during the quarter.

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

**Key to Locating Materials on Blackboard:**

A = ASSIGNMENTS  
D = COURSE DOCUMENTS  
E = e-RESERVES  
L = LECTURES

	<b><u>Lectures (L)</u></b>	<b><u>Other Readings and Necessary Materials</u></b>	<b><u>Notices and Deadlines</u></b>
Week I 9/8-14	Introduction 1. Iberian Background 2. Native Peoples: Mesoamerica and South America	Review reference maps and instructions for Map Quiz (D)	Map quiz available online at 8:00 a.m., Thurs., Sept. 11 (A)
Week II 9/15-21	3. Exploration and Discovery 4. Conquest and Colonization	Herrera, "The Columbus Controversy" (E) Hemming, "From Barter to Slavery" (E) <u>Recommended films for these lectures:</u> <i>Aguirre, the Wrath of God; Cabeza de Vaca; How Tasty Was My Little Frenchman</i>	Map Quiz must be completed by 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 18. Graduate students must contact me no later than Thurs., Sept. 18, to discuss graduate project topics. The last day to apply for Fall graduation is Fri., Sept. 19

	<u>Lectures (L)</u>	<u>Other Readings and Necessary Materials</u>	<u>Notices and Deadlines</u>
Week III 9/22-28	5. Missionization and Conquest	Clendinnen, <i>Ambivalent Conquests</i> (all) Las Casas, "The Only Method" (E)	First unit quiz available online at 8:00 a.m., Thurs., Sept. 25 (A) Let me know by Thurs., Sept. 25, which film will be the topic of your reaction paper. The last day to complete I grades from Spring and Summer is Fri., Sept. 26
Week IV 9/29-10/5	6. State and Society	Spanish Monarchy handout (D) Spanish Colonial Administration handout (D)	First Unit Quiz due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 2.
Week V 10/6-12	7. Race and Class in Colonial Society 9. Population and Labor	Lovell, <i>Conquest and Survival</i> (all) Las Casas, "A Very Brief Relation" (D)	Reaction paper on Lovell due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 9.
Week VI 10/13-19	8. Women in the Colonial World	Martín, <i>Daughters of the Conquistadores</i> (all) Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "Letter to Sor Filotea" (E) Webre, "Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz" (E). <u>Recommended film for this topic: <i>I, the Worst of All</i>.</u>	Second Unit Quiz available online at 8:00 a.m., Thurs., Oct. 16.
Week VII 10/20-26	10. Mining and Agriculture		Second Unit Quiz due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 23. The last day to drop this course with a grade of W is Fri., Oct. 24.
Week VIII 10/27-11/2	11. Sugar and Slavery: Brazil 12. Sugar and Slavery: The Caribbean	Mattoso, <i>To be a Slave in Brazil</i> (all) Hall, "Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion" (E) Hall, "Black Resistance and White Repression" (E) <u>Recommended films for these topics: <i>Quilombo</i>, <i>The Last Supper</i></u>	
Week IX 11/3-9	13. Imperial Reform and Imperial Crisis	Juan and Ulloa, "Discourse and Political Reflections" (E) <u>Recommended film for this topic: <i>The Mission</i></u>	Reaction paper on film of your choice due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 6 Third Unit Quiz available online at 8:00 a.m., Thurs., Nov. 6. Graduate credit projects are due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 6.
Week X 11/10-13	14. Democratic Revolutions and the Collapse of Empire		Third Unit Quiz due at 5:00 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 13 The last of classes for Fall Quarter is Thurs., Nov. 13. All course requirements in this course must be completed by 5:00 p.m.

**NOTE THE DUE DATES FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS IMMEDIATELY. MAKE ALL PERSONAL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.**