Queens College
The City University of New York
History of Latin America and the Caribbean 1825 - Present
Fall 2024

Instructor: Diomelca Rivas
Class Meetings: Monday & Wednesday, 9:15 AM - 10:30 AM
Email: drivas@gradcenter.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM on Zoom

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the history of modern Latin American and Caribbean societies. In order to bring the historical foundations of Latin America and the Caribbean into focus, we will consider the history of the region from the birth of its republics to the current situation (1825-Present), considering both the challenges to Latin American and Caribbean republics and their interactions with the world. Selected themes include Amerindian civilization, colonial powers, political independence, neocolonialism, nationalism, revolutions, and neoliberalism, among others. This will allow us to research Latin American and Caribbean history at a regional level and understand its connections with the rest of the world.

Course Learning Outcomes/General Education Information:

1. Oral and written communication skills - Students will produce well-reasoned written and oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
2. Critical thinking skills - Students will evaluate evidence and arguments critically and analytically.
3. Information literacy skills - Students will gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
4. World Cultures and Global Issues – History & Culture - Students will identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring world cultures and global issues.

Course Readings: Peter Winn, *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*. University of California Press, 1999 [ISBN# 9780520245013].

Attendance: Students are expected to arrive prepared and on time. More than four absences will negatively impact your ability to do well in the course.

Discussion Policies: Our classroom discussions will be organized around lectures, reading assignments, and in-class group work that will provide an opportunity for you to read and analyze primary and secondary source materials in collaboration with your peers. Please remember that there are no bad questions; if you are confused about something there is a good chance that others are as well, so be sure to ask your questions, voice your opinions, and respond to what others say. Also, please note that because the study of history involves argument and debate, disagreement is welcome during class discussions, as long as it remains civil. Personal attacks, insults, and offensive remarks about class members are absolutely unacceptable.

Grading Policy

Class Participation/Discussion: 15%
Weekly Discussion Responses: 30%
Document Analysis: 10%
Mid-term: 20%
Final exam: 25%

Assignments

Absolutely no late papers/assignments will be accepted. Make ups only with a valid medical excuse (you must bring a doctor's note).

Weekly Discussion Posts:
Each student is responsible for **ten (10)** reading responses (300 - 400 words) over the course of the semester. You should post it on Brightspace by **Saturday, 11:59 PM.** If you post your response late, your work will not be accepted. When writing the posts, you should follow the instructions on Blackboard for that specific week. You are also responsible for responding to one of your classmates' posts.

Please refer to the Brightspace Student Handbook to learn more about submitting your responses.

Document Analysis:
Document Analysis due 12/02 at 11:59 PM: select ***one primary source document*** and write a (**500-600** word/ **about 2p**) essay analyzing and placing the document you have selected within the broader historical context of the period selected.

Accommodating Disabilities

Queens College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Diversity & Equity Initiative. For more information, please contact the Office of Diversity & Equity Initiative, Kiely Hall, Room 147, phone number, 718-997-5888.

Academic Integrity Policy at Queens College

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and violates CUNY's policy on academic integrity (https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/). When you use ideas or quotations from existing works in your own writing, you must cite them with footnotes or endnotes (either is acceptable) – the standard format in History is *Chicago Manual of Style* Notes & Bibliography Style (https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html). Any paper that uses material from the internet, a book, article, or another student's essay without proper attribution will be considered plagiarism and receive an F. It will also be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in an F for the course.

A word about AI: I expect that all written work you submit was written by you and only you. ChatGPT will not help with the assignments in this class: the stuff it produces is bland and often inaccurate. If you use a tool such as ChatGPT to brainstorm ideas, you must indicate that in your paper. It's fine to use a grammar tool such as Grammarly, but you must indicate that in your paper. If you are found to have used AI to write your paper, that would constitute a violation of my plagiarism policy stated above.

Course Schedule and Readings

Date	Assignment/Readings
Week 1: Getting to Know Each Other and the Course	
Wed, 08/28	Why are we here? / Expectations / Syllabus
Week 2: The Encounter	
Mon, 09/02	**Labor Day College Closed**
Wed, 09/04	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 2, pp. 39-65. Choose two: - "Death of the Spanish at Navidad" (33-35) from *the Dominican Republic Reader.* - "Spanish Officials and Indigenous Resistance" (15-18) from *the Cuba Reader.* - "An Indian Nobleman Petitions His King" (253-256) *from the Colombia Reader.* - "A Captured Maroon Faces His Interrogators" (257-259) from *the Colombia Reader.* and - Listen to Joe Arroyo's La Rebelion: Joe Arroyo - La Rebelion (youtube.com) Blackboard discussion board #1 (due Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00 PM).
Week 3: Colonial Economics	
Mon, 09/09	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 2, pp. 65-77. - Jane E. Mangan, "A Market of Identities Women, Trade, and Ethnic Labels in Colonial Potosí" in *Imperial subjects: Race and identity in colonial Latin America*. Duke University Press, 2009. Blackboard discussion board #2
Wed, 09/11	**Read Before Class** - "Women's Wills (Potosi 1577 and 1601; La Plata, 1602; and Potosi, 1571 and 1658" in *Women in Colonial Latin America, 1526 to 1806: texts and contexts*. Hackett Publishing, 2018.
Week 4: Independence	
Mon, 09/16	**Read Before Class**

	- Revolution and War in Europe (97-102); The Spanish American Rebellion Begins (101-106); Patriot Victories in Spanish America (112-114); Unfinished Revolutions (115-121) in Chasteen, John, *Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. 4th ed. New York & London: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2016. - George Reid Andrews, "'An Exterminating Bolt of Lightning': The Wars for Freedom, 1810-1890, pp. 53-84, Chapter 2 in *Afro-Latin America*. Blackboard discussion board #3
Wed, 09/18	**Read Before Class** - Simón Bolívar, "The Jamaica Letter, 1815" at: Document #1: "Letter from Jamaica," Simón Bolívar (1815) | Modern Latin America (brown.edu). and - Watch: Pedro Camejo | Venezuela's Black Revolutionary Who Fought Spanish Colonialism (youtube.com)
Week 5: Postcolonial Blues	
Mon, 09/23	**Read Before Class** - George Reid Andrews, "Our New Citizens, the Blacks: The Politics of Freedom, 1810-1890," (85-100), Chapter 3 in *Afro-Latin America.* Blackboard discussion board #4
Wed, 09/25	**Read Before Class** - "Disentailment and Its Discontents," *the Bolivia Reader* (184-187). - "Liberals and the Land," *the Mexico Reader* (209-215).
Week 6: Caudillismo Then and Now	
Mon, 09/30	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 3 - "The Wall Street Journal: The Cult of the Caudillo" - "First Electoral Manifesto of the Argentine Socialist Worker Party, 1896" Blackboard discussion board #5
Wed, 10/02	**No classes scheduled**
Week 7: The Perils of Progress and the Mexican Revolution	
Mon, 10/07	**Read Before Class:** - Porfirio Díaz Interview with James Creelman, 1908 : Document #3: "President Diaz: Hero of the Americas," James Creelman (1908) | Modern Latin America (brown.edu) - "The discourse of development" pp. 23-34; "The price of progress" pp. 174 – 195" in *The civilizing machine: A cultural history of Mexican railroads, 1876-1910*. U of Nebraska Press, 2013. Blackboard discussion board #6
Wed, 10/09	**Read Before Class:**

	- "Gift of the Skeletons" (254-255) in *the Mexico's Reader.*
Week 8: Mexican Revolution Cont.	
Mon, 10/14	**College Closed**
Tue, 10/15	Classes Follow a Monday Schedule **Read Before Class** - Alan Knight, The Mexican Revolution - The Mexican Revolution | History Today
Wed, 10/16	**Midterm Exam**
Week 9: Populism	
Mon, 10/21	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 4 - Uri Friedman, "What Is a Populist? And is Donald Trump one?" The Atlantic Blackboard discussion board #7
Wed, 10/23	**Read Before Class** - Mark Alan Healey, The Fragility of the Moment: Politics and Class in the Aftermath of the 1944 Argentine Earthquake - Evita, *In My Own Words* (62-64; 66-68; 71) - D. James, "Perón and the People" (273-295)
Week 10: The Economy and the People	
Mon, 10/28	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 5 Blackboard discussion board #8
Wed, 10/30	**Read Before Class** - Pinto, "City of Mist" (110-112) and "Ordinary People: Five Lives Affected by Vargas-Era Reforms" (206-221) from *The Brazil Reader*.
Week 11: Cultural Politics of Race and Ethnicity	
Mon, 11/04	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 8 - The Beautiful Game? Race and Class in Brazilian Soccer https://nacla.org/article/beautiful-game-race-and-class-brazilian-soccer Blackboard discussion board #9
Wed, 11/06	**Read Before Class** - "Chile and Its "Others"" (210-212) from *the Chile Reader.* - Derby, "Food, Race and Nation" (212-214) from *the Dominican Republic Reader.* - Batista Lacerda, "On the Mestizo in Brazil" (290-294) *from the Brazil Reader.*

Week 12: In Women's Hands	
Mon, 11/11	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 9 Blackboard discussion board #10
Wed, 11/13	**Read Before Class** - Norma Stoltz Chinchilla, Women's Movements in the Americas: Feminism's Second Wave - "Women Lead the Opposition to Allende: Interview with Carmen Saenz" (406-409) and "Women and Torture" (459-464) from *The Chile Reader*.
Week 13: Stand Up for Your Rights	
Mon, 11/18	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 13 Blackboard discussion board #11
Wed, 11/20	**Read Before Class** - Fidel Castro, "Castro Calls on Cubans to Resist the Counterrevolution" (472-475) and John F. Kennedy, "Offensive Missiles on that Imprisoned Island" (480-482) from the *Cuban Reader.*
Week 14: The Revolution Will Be Televised	
Mon, 11/25	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 12 - "The President of the United States Chooses the Next President of the Dominican Republic" from *the Dominican Republic Reader*. - "Sabotage for Liberty" (238-241) and "A Plan for Assassination" (242-245) from *the Guatemala Reader.* Blackboard discussion board #12
Wed, 11/27	**No Class – Classes Follow Friday Schedule**
Week 15: Neoliberalism	
Mon, 12/02	**Read Before Class** - Chapter 11, "Neoliberalism and Beyond" in Chasteen, John, *Born in Blood & Fire.* Document Analysis Due (**No Discussion Board)**
Wed, 12/04	**Watch Before Class** - Francia Márquez, 2018 Goldman Environmental Prize, Colombia (youtube.com) - Women united against copper mining in the Colombian Amazon (youtube.com)

	- Roberto Zurbano, The Invisible Plantation: La Plantación Invisible: turismo, raza, y colonialidad en La Habana, con Roberto Zurbano on Vimeo
Week 16	**Tio Sam**
Mon, 12/09	**Read Before Class** - Winn, Chapter 14 Blackboard discussion board #13
Wed, 12/11	**Read Before Class** - "Undocumented and Unafraid"
Week 17 Mon, 12/16	**Final Exam**