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UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN - PLATTEVILLE

## Latin-American History

**Course Code:** HIST 3070

**Prerequisites:** 5 semester of college level - Spanish

**Language of Instruction:** Spanish

**Contact Hours:** 42

**Credits:** 3

**Professor:** José Luis Sierra

**Email:** [academic@saiie.com](mailto:academic@saiie.com)

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## **A. COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This Latin-American course is aimed at students who wish to have a general overview of Latin-American history. For this reason, it is an introductory course with the aim of going over the main stages of the evolution of Latin-American history, understanding in effect, the American continent from Mexico to Tierra de Fuego.

The extensive history of Latin-America (more than 4000 years since the arrival of man), means this course is limited to a basic descriptive level although, we will try to go more in depth on particular aspects of great interest.

Within Latin-American History 3 important periods can be distinguished:

**Pre- Columbus Period.** Covers the appearance of man on the American continent up to the arrival of the Spaniards in 1492. A brief introduction.

**Colonial Period.** Covers the arrival of Admiral Columbus up to the beginning of the Independence processes during the 19th Century. The dates vary but at a general level, the time period of 1810 to 1830 can be identified as the key time in the Independence process.

In this time period geographical discoveries happened and Spanish and Portuguese colony models at political, social, economic and cultural levels were formed and developed.

**Contemporary Period.** Covers up to the present day. We will study the political evolution of the different nations created due to the Independence processes. We will also analyze all the serious problems that Latin-America poses at present.

## **B. COURSE PLAN**

### **INTRODUCTION.**

- Overview of Latin-America.

### **PRECOLOMBUS PERIOD.**

- Brief geographical and historical introduction.

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## **COLONIAL PERIOD.**

### **Discovery of America part 1 and historical background**

- The expansion of Europe in the 16th Century. Causes and factors.
- The Iberian Peninsula during the 15th Century.
- Castilla, Portugal and the expansion of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Before Columbus' journey.

### **Discovery of America part 2. Christopher Columbus and his work.**

- The mysterious Christopher Columbus.
- The first years.
- The "great project": from East to West.
- Columbus in Castilla.
- Las Capitulaciones de Santa Fe.
- The great journey.
- Spain and Portugal divide the New World.
- Columbus' second journey.
- America or Colombia?
- The "discovery" of America and World History.

### **Exploration and conquest of Latin-America.**

- The Caribbean and Tierra Firme (1498-1519).
- The conquest of the continent (1519-1567).
- The personality of the Spanish Conqueror.
- The attitude of Spanish jurists before the Conquest.

### **The America of Austria/ Austrian American**

- Spain of Austria.
- Government Institutions.
- Duties, forced labor and reductions.
- Slavery: Black people in America.
- Evangelism.
- Society in Austrian America.
- Economy.
- Culture.
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### **Bourbon America (18th and 19th century)**

- Bourbon Spain
- The scientific exploration of America.
- Institutions and Administration: las Intendencias.
- The economy.
- Society.
- The culture: The Enlightenment.

### **CONTEMPORARY PERIOD**

#### **Independence and its problems**

- The crisis of a colonial world.
- The last/final riots.
- The precursors.
- From the local groups to the revolution.
- The Revolutionary America.
- Independence.

#### **1825-1900: From an autocratic government to modernization.**

- The export economy.
- Politics and society.
- The marginalized: Indians and Blacks.
- The independent countries.

#### **The 20th Century**

- New times, new problems.
- The Mexican Revolution.
- The Transformations in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay (El Cono Sur).
- After the crisis.
- Nationalism and populism.
- The Chaco drama.
- Dependency and revolution.
- Development.
- Current problems



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### **C. EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be 3 exams (**30% EACH ONE**) during the semester, on specified dates. These exams will be made up of 2 different parts:

- a) An essay worth 50% of the overall total of the exam.
- b) Two short questions from the three given. Each answer has a value of 25%.

**Assignment.** - Each student will carry out an assignment (**worth 10% of final grade**) which will consist in creating a review and summary of documentary related to the course content.

The student will have to watch the film and produce a paper of at least 4 pages long, typed, double spaced and Arial Font 11. The Professor will give the necessary instructions to correctly produce the work.

The student will have to do a presentation of 10 minutes prior to the class viewing of these documentaries.

The deadlines and presentation dates will be confirmed during the semester between the second exam and the final one.

### **D. CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is mandatory. Unjustified absences will be penalized the following way:

- The first **3** absences will **not be penalized**.
- The **4th** you will be penalized **4%**
- The **5th** you will be penalized **6%**
- The **6th** you will be penalized **8%**
- As of the **7th**, **10%** will be taken off the final grade.

### **E. GRADING**

97-100	A+	77-79	C+
93-96	A	73-76	C



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90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-

Below 60 F

#### **F. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Germán Vázquez y Nelson Martínez Díaz. Historia de América Latina. SGEL. Madrid 1994.

The textbook is useful for beginners but is unsuitable for economic and social analysis of different time periods. The professor will concentrate the classes on filling in the gaps of the textbook.

- Works used by the teacher to prepare the classes:
  - Andrés Ciudad, Manuel Lucena y Carlos Malamud. Manual de Historia Universal. Tomo 10. América. Historia 16. Madrid 1992.
  - Manuel Lucena Salmoral (coord.). VV.AA. Historia de Iberoamérica. 3 volúmenes. Cátedra. Madrid 2008.
  - Guillermo Céspedes del Castillo. América hispánica. Marcial Pons. Madrid 2009.
  - Tulio de Halperín. Historia Contemporánea de América Latina. Alianza Editorial. Madrid 1998.