Description
This course offers a survey of the history of Latin America from the pre-Columbian empires (Maya, Aztec and Inka) to the early 21st century. It deals with the imposition of Spanish and Portuguese colonial governments; settlement patterns; power of the church; mineral and agricultural exploitation; slavery and the slave trade; independence movements; 19th-century dictators; the 1910 Mexican revolution; British economic domination; the interference of the United States of America; the Venezuelan oil industry; socialist and capitalist industrialization; monarchical government in independent Brazil; the rise of coffee industry; growth of industrial cities; the agricultural basis of prosperity; land-owners and wage-earners; and the significance of revolutionary movements.

Requirements
Our goal in this class is to challenge existing assumptions, engage alternative viewpoints, and encourage critical thinking. Through the study of history, we seek to empower ourselves to be better citizens, and to provide ourselves with the skills necessary to play a positive and educated role in society. We need to be active constituents rather than mere recipients of our education. To accomplish those tasks, we should strive to create an open and supportive learning environment. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions are also necessary. Please drop me a note if you are unable to attend, or if you have any concerns or suggestions for improving the class.

Readings
Following are the required books for this class. Read the assignments before class so that you are prepared to carry on an intelligent discussion of the material in class. Lectures and discussions will complement the readings and assume the base level of knowledge which they present, so it is critically important that you keep up with the readings. These books are available in the history library.


Assignments and grades
Course grades will be based on the following assignments. Papers are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned, and I do not accept “drop and run” papers. Grades on late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day that they are late. Successful completion of all assignments is required to receive credit for this class.

Primary source analyses (25% each). Analyze one primary source from each of the two volumes of O’Connor/Garofalo’s *Documenting Latin America: Gender, Race, and Nation*. Consider these questions:
1. Who created the document? What is the author’s gender, race, and class status?
2. When was the document written?
3. To whom was the document addressed?
3. Why was the document created?
Using your own words, summarize the main points of the document, explaining what the document reveals, what it conceals, and how its contents were shaped by the experiences and perspectives of the author. Your analysis should be three to five pages long, typed, double-spaced, and include citations.

**Examination** (50%). The final examination will be an essay drawing on all of the material we have covered during the course of the semester.

**Class Schedule**

Week 1 (August 25) Introduction & Geography

Week 2 (Sept 1) Ancient America
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 1.

Week 3 (Sept 8) Conquests
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 3.

Week 4 (Sept 15) Colonialism
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 4.

Week 5 (Sept 22) Slavery
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 6.

Week 6 (Sept 29) Independence
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 8
**Assignment:** First primary source analysis due

Week 7 (Oct 6) Neocolonialism
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 11.

Week 8 (Oct 13) Mexican Revolution
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 12.

Week 9 (Oct 20) Cuban Revolution
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 15.

Week 10 (Oct 27) The Chilean Road to Socialism
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 17.

Week 11 (Nov 3) The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 19
**Assignment:** Second primary source analysis due

Week 12 (Nov 10) Inter-American Relations
**Read:** Keen/Haynes, ch. 22.