History of Latin America (HIST 409)

“Poor people inhabit rich lands”
- E. Bradford Burns

First Semester 2013, University of Ghana
JQB 14, Mon 9:30-11:20
Marc Becker

Description
This course offers a survey of the history of Latin America from independence from European colonial powers at the beginning of the nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. It explores the aftermath of colonialism, slavery, liberalism, imperialism, nationalism, populism, socialism, and revolutions through the lens of racism, class structures, gender, ethnicity, human rights, globalization, and popular movements.

Text

Primary source analysis (30%).
Using your own words, explain what you think the primary sources reveal, what they conceal, and how the experiences and perspectives of the authors shaped their contents. In order to identify the main issues in the document, consider:
• What does this source tell a reader about a historical event? What are its limits in explaining those events?
• How does this source fit into a larger historical narrative? Does it challenge or conform to what the textbook says?
In order to analyze the documents, examine the following evidence:
• What type of source is this?
• What can you extrapolate about who created the source, when, and where?
• Who did the author consider the audience to be?
• Why was the document created?
• What views and perspectives does the document present? Are other views silenced or challenged?

Final examination (70%).

Class Schedule

Week 1  Introduction and Geography
Read: Meade, ch. 1

Week 2  Independence
Read: Meade, ch. 2

Week 3  Slavery
Read: Meade, ch. 3
Primary source: Arnaiz de Espinosa, Felipe. "Felipe Edimboro Requests Manumission for

Week 4  Caudillos
   Read: Meade, ch. 4

Week 5  Imperialism
   Read: Meade, chs. 5-6

Week 6  Mexican Revolution
   Read: Meade, ch. 7

Week 7  Socialism
   Read: Meade, ch. 8

Week 8  Populism
   Read: Meade, chs. 9-10

Week 9  Cuban Revolution
   Read: Meade, ch. 11

Week 10  Chilean Path to Socialism
   Read: Meade, ch. 12

Week 11  Central America
   Read: Meade, ch. 13

Week 12  Pink Tide Governments
   Read: Meade, ch. 14