

# Latin American History: Colonial Period

**Augusta State University**  
**Department of History, Anthro. & Phil.**

**HIST 3511, 3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2008**

---

**Professor:** Dr. H. J. Abdelnur  
**Class Info.:** MWF 12-12:50pm in Allgood Hall E259  
**Office Hours:** MW 1 p.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.; other times by appointment  
**Contact Info.:** During office hours I am in E211 Allgood Hall  
E-Mail: at [Abdelnur@aug.edu](mailto:Abdelnur@aug.edu); Office phone: 706-667-4566, or, on-campus ext. 4566

---

**I. Textbook:**

1. Burkholder, Mark and Lyman Johnson. Colonial Latin America, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 0-19-532042-5 (\$42.95 on Amazon!)

**II. Supplemental Texts:**

2. Leon-Portilla, Miguel. The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico. Boston: Beacon Press, Houghton Mifflin, 2007. ISBN 0-8070-5500-X
3. Boyer, Colonial Lives. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0-19-512512-6
4. Cortés, Hernán. Letters from Mexico. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001. ISBN 0-300-09094-3

(\*\*Students **MUST** purchase the **current** editions of both texts and be prepared to complete reading assignments and written assessments according to the syllabus. If a student cannot purchase the text in a timely fashion he/she must inform me immediately!)

**III. Strongly Suggested:**

5. Frakes, Robert. Writing for College History. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A survey of the pre-Columbian era and of the Iberian backgrounds, explorations, conquests, and institutions in Latin America through the wars of independence.

## COURSE GOALS:

Utilizing a variety of primary and secondary source texts with a combination of lecture and discussion, the student should be able to demonstrate solid comprehension of the major themes, dates, and personalities important to formation of early Latin America to Independence.

## EXAMINATIONS and GRADING:

This class will have four quizzes during the semester that will require the writing of well-organized interpretive essays as well as the response to multiple choice and identification questions. In addition, there will be essay assignments based on the reading of two primary source texts. There will be occasional homework assignments to address certain issues in your textbook readings as well as some in-class graded assignments based on primary source documents and a debate. Your final exam is a take home essay due during finals week.

Homework Assignments	TBA	25 points each
Broken Spears Essay	September 5th	150 points
Cortes' Letters Essay	September 17 <sup>th</sup>	150 points
EXAMS	10/3; 10/22; 11/24	150 points each
In-class Assignments	Throughout the Semester	25 points each
Paper Title and Abstract	October 6 <sup>th</sup>	50 points
Paper Outline	October 15 <sup>th</sup>	100 points
Paper Rough Draft	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	150 points
Final Exam Essay	December 10 <sup>th</sup> by 1pm	200 points

### ATTENDANCE

*You are expected to attend each and every class with 2 “freebies”. After that, if there is no official excuse, 2 points will be reduced from your final grade point average for each class missed beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> free. Students who attend each and every class this semester will automatically receive 2 points added to their final grade point average! Students who miss more than 12 classes will be dropped automatically from the course with a failing grade.*

### PARTICIPATION

*Even though this class is primarily a lecture course, discussion elements will occur frequently in the course of the semester. Often in the study of colonial Latin America, it is impossible not to discuss certain themes—there is ample room for differing views of the same event. Please be certain to come to each class period having read all assigned materials and come prepared to present your opinions and ask questions!*

### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

*Please, remember that we are all members of the academic community of this college and, as such, we must all treat each other with respect and courtesy. Academic honesty is imperative to maintain your good standing at Augusta State University; cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, and complicity will not be tolerated and, if found, will result in a zero for the assignment or for a final course grade, at my discretion.*

### OTHER INFORMATION

*Please routinely check your ASU email (once every 24 hours) in case I send you updated materials, class cancellation announcements, or other course-related information. Also, as a note of courtesy to your fellow students and your professor, please turn **OFF** all cell phones during the class period.*

# Daily Class Schedule

## WEEK I

1. 8/18 Introductions
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 1, Broken Spears Introduction
2. 8/20 The Americas Before the Conquest
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 1, Broken Spears Ch. 1-3
3. 8/22 In-class activity—Primary Source documents: Aztec Origins and Maya Creationism
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 1, Broken Spears Ch. 4-7

## WEEK II

1. 8/25 Iberian Peninsula—Roman Legacies and North African Traditions
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 1, Broken Spears Ch. 8-10
2. 8/27 Iberia prior to the Conquest and the personality of the Conquistador
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 2, Broken Spears Ch. 11-13
3. 8/29 Caribbean Encounters
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2, Broken Spears Ch. 14-15, Postscript

## WEEK III

1. 9/1 Labor Day → No Class Meeting → Work on Essay #1
2. 9/3 Discussion of Broken Spears, Mexican Explorations and the arrival of Cortés
  - a. Prepare Essay #1
  - b. Read B&J Ch. 2, Letters from Mexico 1
3. 9/5 The Kingdom of Guatemala → Essay #1 Due!
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2, Letters from Mexico 2

## WEEK IV

1. 9/8 The Brazilian Accident
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2, Letters from Mexico 3
2. 9/10 MOVIE → Aguirre, "The Wrath of God" (Media Services Call #51)
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2, Letters from Mexico 4
3. 9/12 MOVIE cont.; Lecture: The Conquest of southern "United States"
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2, Letters from Mexico 5

## WEEK V

1. 9/15 In-Class Activity 1—Conquest, Encounter, or Invasion? Debate & Cortés' letters
  - a. Prepare for Essay #2
2. 9/17 The Conquest of the Southern Cone and Andean Regions → Essay #2 Due!
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 2

3. 9/19 *Population Decline and Recovery and the Columbian Exchange*
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 3

#### WEEK VI

---

1. 9/22 *Viceroyalty of New Spain and the problems of Empire*
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 3
2. 9/24 *Brazilian Captaincies*
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 3; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 3
3. 9/26 *Roman Catholic Church in the Americas*
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 3; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 7

#### WEEK VII

---

1. 9/29 **In-Class Activity 2**—*Roman Catholic Church in the Americas*  
*Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and Santa Rosa of Lima*
  - a. Study for EXAM #1 & think about paper topics...
2. 10/1 **NO CLASS MEETING**→Prepare your Title, topic, and abstract paragraph/s! STUDY STUDY STUDY!
3. 10/3 **EXAM #1**→Bring your own blue books!
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 4

#### WEEK VIII

---

1. 10/6 **Population and Labor—Native American** **Title and Abstract Due!**
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 4
2. 10/8 *Population and Labor—African*
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 5
3. 10/10 *Production and Exchange: Colonial Economies of Mining and Agriculture*
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 5

#### WEEK IX

---

1. 10/13 *Library Research Presentation* (**Meet in Reese Library** on time as attendance will be taken!)
  - a. Prepare your Outline!
  - b. Read B&J Ch. 5
2. 10/15 *Defense of the Colonies*→**Outline Due!**
  - a. Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 6
3. 10/17 *Colonial Society—Color and Class: Elite, Middle Groups, and Everyone Else*
  - a. Read B&J Ch. 6; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 8

#### WEEK X

---

1. 10/20 *Urban versus Rural Peoples*
  - Study for EXAM #2
2. 10/22 **EXAM #2**→Bring Your Own BLUE BOOKS!
  - Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 7
3. 10/24 *Colonial Society—Gender and Social Deviance*
  - Read B&J Ch. 7; Boyer & Spurling 9, 12

## WEEK XI

- 10/27 Colonial Women, work, family obligations and legal limitations
  - Read B&J Ch. 7; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 17, 21
- 10/29 **In-Class Activity 3**—Families and Honor, Letters to Families and Lovers
  - Read Burkholder & Johnson Chapter 8
- 10/31 Daily Life in Colonial Latin America
  - Read B&J Ch. 8; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 10, 13

## WEEK XII

- 11/3 **In-Class Activity 4**—Life and Death in the Americas: Wills, Dowries, and Testaments
  - Read B&J Ch. 8; Read Boyer & Spurling Ch. 15
- 11/5 Entertainment, Intellectuals, and Crime
  - Read Burkholder & Johnson Ch. 9
- 11/7 Late Colonial Spanish America—1680s-1760s
  - Read B&J Ch. 9; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 15

## WEEK XIII

- 11/10 The Bourbon Reforms—1760s-1820s
  - Read B&J Ch. 9; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 12
- 11/12 Late Colonial Brazil
  - Read Burkholder & Johnson Ch. 10; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 16, 23
- 11/14 Beginnings of Unrest—Initiating Revolution in Mexico
  - Read B&J Ch. 10; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 18, 19

## WEEK XIV

- 11/17 Independence Underway in the Rest of Latin America
  - Read B&J Ch. 10; Boyer & Spurling Ch. 20, 22
- 11/19 Independence Denied in Brazil, Sort of...
  - Catch up on your readings and work on your papers!
- 11/21 Conclusions
  - Study for Exam #3 and Prepare your Rough Drafts!

## WEEK XV

- 11/24 **EXAM #3 → Bring your own Blue Books!**
  - Prepare your Rough Drafts!
- 11/26 NO CLASS → Thanksgiving
- 11/28 NO CLASS → Thanksgiving

## WEEK XVI

- 12/1 Individual Meetings with Rough Drafts in Hand!
- 12/3 Individual Meetings with Rough Drafts in Hand!

**FINAL PAPER DUE TO ME IN MY OFFICE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH BY 1**

***PM!***