



HIS 346K: Colonial Latin American

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Ahmed Deidán de la Torre, M.A. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing.

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

When Iberians (Spanish and Portuguese) and Africans set foot in the Americas in the late 15th century, indigenous societies—some of them enormous and powerful empires—had already occupied for thousands of years the territory now known as “Latin America.” The sudden arrival

of Iberians and Africans from across the Atlantic Ocean would irrevocably change the course of that territory's history.

Spanning from the 15th century until many regions declared independence from Spain and Portugal in the early 19th century, this course seeks to help you answer the following questions:

- How and why did Iberians manage to conquer many indigenous societies?
- How successful were these conquests?
- What kinds of changes occurred in Latin American societies as a result of conquest and, subsequently, colonization?
- What was life like for indigenous peoples and Africans under colonial rule?
- What kinds of divides existed within colonial society, and how did these rifts contribute to tensions that would ultimately lead to imperial crisis and independence in the late 18th and early 19th centuries?

The above questions are numerous, but a single question binds them altogether and provides the backbone of this course's content: Who had power/authority in colonial Latin America, and what did power/authority mean in this context? In other words, who got to make the decisions that determined the course of history? You may find that the answer to this question varies considerably depending on the region, peoples involved, and numerous other factors.

Required Materials

- **Required Text:** Matthew Restall and Kris Lane, *Latin America in Colonial Times* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), ISBN 9780521132602.
- Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman Johnson, *Colonial Latin America, 9th ed.* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), ISBN 9780199340484.
- Camilla Townsend, Malintzin's Choices: *An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006), ISBN 9780826334053.
- Kenneth Mills, William B. Taylor, and Sandra Lauderdale Graham, *Colonial Spanish America: A Documentary History* (SR Books: Lanham, MD, 2002), ISBN: 9780842029971. Or, Kenneth Mills and William B. Taylor, *Colonial Spanish America: A Documentary History* (SR Books: Lanham, MD, 1998), ISBN: 9780842025737.
- **Optional Text:** Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 8th ed.* (Boston: Bedford/St Martin's, 2015), ISBN 9781457690884.

Course Organization

The course is organized into four modules containing 11 lessons. You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module before the next module will open. The lessons are partly chronological, and partly thematic. Generally speaking, they follow a chronology that begins in the 15th century and ends in the early 19th century. However, the lessons occasionally jump back and forth in time in order to allow for a thorough discussion of a particular theme. This is particularly the case for lessons 5 through 8, which are more thematic than chronological.

Instructor-Graded Assignments

There are 11 instructor-graded assignments in this course. Many of the writing assignments for this course include multiple questions, especially in the earlier lessons. Often, there will be one primary question, with a series of sub-questions that you are required to include as part of your answer. Types of questions include: reflection, identification, short answer, and essay.

The reflection questions are brief, informal, low-stakes opportunities for you to engage with the readings, voice your opinions, and develop skills (with writing, critical thinking, creativity, and more) that will help you with other components of the course.

Identification questions require you to briefly define a series of terms, and explain their significance for the historical moment and/or the themes of the course. They are designed in part to ensure that you understand the material for each lesson, but also to provide an opportunity to practice two skills: 1) synthesizing information (condensing what you have learned about the term and its significance into a brief explanation in your own words); and 2) placing specific people/events/ideas within their broader historical context.

You will only complete short answer questions for the first two lessons of the course. They are designed to provide you with an opportunity to practice answering a question by synthesizing information from the readings—a skill you will need in order to complete the Essay assignments later in the course.

Essay assignments will require you to do much more than regurgitate information from the readings: you will need to take what you have learned; decide which parts are relevant to answering a particular question; reorder the information into a cohesive argument; and relay that information in clear and concise prose. These are the most difficult questions in the course, but they are also the most useful.

Exams

This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. After you have completed six lessons, there will be a midterm examination to test your knowledge about the

first half of the course. The final exam will include material from throughout the entire course. The exams will include 8 identification questions and 1 essay question.

Course Outline

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Lesson 1: Iberia, Africa, and Early Exploration of the Americas	Instructor-Graded Assignment 1
	Lesson 2: Latin America's Indigenous Peoples Before the Conquest	Instructor-Graded Assignment 2
	Lesson 3: The Iberian Conquest of Latin America, Part I: Empires Fall	Instructor-Graded Assignment 3
2	Lesson 4: The Iberian Conquest of Latin America, Part II: The Long Conquest	Instructor-Graded Assignment 4
	Lesson 5: Colonial Administration, Labor and Economy	Instructor-Graded Assignment 5
	Lesson 6: The Catholic Church	Instructor-Graded Assignment 6
MIDTERM EXAM		
3	Lesson 7: Race, Caste and Social Hierarchy	Instructor-Graded Assignment 7
	Lesson 8: Daily Life in the Colonies	Instructor-Graded Assignment 8
	Lesson 9: The Bourbon and Pombaline Reforms	Instructor-Graded Assignment 9
4	Lesson 10: Crisis and Rebellion	Instructor-Graded Assignment 10
	Lesson 11: Independence	Instructor-Graded Assignment 11
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

11 Instructor-Graded Assignments	50%
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Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A	100-94%	B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%	F	59-0%
A-	93-90%	B	86-84%	C	76-74%	D	66-64%		
		B-	83-80%	C-	73-70%	D-	63-60%		

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

uex@austin.utexas.edu

512-471-2900