

**HIST/AFRC/LALS 70.401**  
**Colonial Latin America**  
**Fall 2010**  
**MW 1-2pm**  
**Professor Tamara J. Walker**

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**Office hours:**  
**216D College Hall**  
**M/W 2-3:30, and by**  
**appointment**

**Course Description:** This course provides an introduction to the broad literature on Latin America's rich colonial history. We will begin by tracing some of the early origins of - and points of contact between - the Indian, Iberian, and African men and women who formed the basis of colonial society. As the course progresses, we will explore the variety of ways in which colonial subjects lived, worked, ate, worshipped and socialized. Lectures and reading assignments will draw upon a variety of sources, including court cases, artistic renderings, city maps and street plans, travel accounts of visits to the region, and the material, cultural, and intellectual products made possible by the wealth and dynamism of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The course will conclude with an analysis of the Age of Revolutions, a period of dramatic upheaval that remains at the center of lively scholarly debates. By the end of the semester, students will be able to engage the key questions driving these debates, the most important of which, perhaps, is: what is Latin America's colonial legacy?

**Requirements and Grading System:** Your grade will be based on the following requirements:

**Attendance and Participation (20%):** In this course, you will be responsible for helping to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Therefore, your grade will depend in large part on regular attendance as well as thoughtful preparation for and contributions to class meetings. Please note that reading assignments for each class average around 50 pages, and you are required to come to each meeting having completed the reading *for that day*. I encourage you to read ahead in anticipation of busy sport schedules, religious holidays, shifts in workloads, and other foreseeable circumstances that may disrupt your productivity in this course.

**Blog Entries (20%):** To ensure you get as much out of our readings and discussions as possible, you will sign up to write at least two (250- to 500-word) blog entries over the course of the semester. You may choose the focus of each entry, whether it's on a particular week's reading assignments, a set of related articles or documents, a prevalent theme, or even a relevant image. The entries should be uploaded via blackboard by **10 am** on the day for which you signed up. Please be prepared to discuss the highlights of your entry in class.

**Midterm (25%):** Midterm questions will be circulated in class a week prior to their due date.

**Paper (10%):** For this assignment, you will write a 2- to 3-page “Letter from the New World,” adopting the perspective of a colonial subject of your choice. Details and further instructions can be found on our Blackboard site.

**Final (25%):** The final exam questions will be circulated a week prior to their due date.

Please note that, barring documented emergencies, no extensions will be granted on any assignments.

**Class Procedures:** Please come prepared with the assigned readings for each meeting, as well as with handwritten notes that you can reference during discussion. The use of laptops during lectures is prohibited.

**Required Texts:** All readings marked with an asterisk are available on our Blackboard site. In addition, the following books are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center, and on reserve at Van-Pelt Library:

Mark Burkholder and Lyman Johnson, *Colonial Latin America* (7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009 – be sure it’s the 7<sup>th</sup> edition; earlier editions have less content and different pagination)

Richard Boyer and Jeffrey Spurling, eds., *Colonial Lives: Documents in Latin American History, 1550-1850* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)

Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds., *The Faces of Honor: Sex, Shame, and Violence in Colonial Latin America* (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1998).

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **WEEK 1**

##### **Introduction and Overview**

Discussion of syllabus, course objectives, themes, and texts.

#### **PART I: ORIGINS AND CONTACT ZONES**

#### **WEEK 2**

## **America before the Conquest**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 1-22 (“Amerindian Civilization on the Eve of European Conquest”).

Arnold Bauer, “The Material Landscape of Pre-Columbian America,” in *Goods, Power, History: Latin America’s Material Culture* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 15-45.

## **Iberian Origins**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, “The Iberian World in the Late Fifteenth Century,” pp. 23-34

*Document*: “Coexistence in the Medieval Spanish Kingdom,” *Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, pp. 27-33\*

## **WEEK 3**

### **Africa and the Atlantic World**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 35-40 (“Atlantic Africa in the Fifteenth Century”).

John Thornton, *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World*, Chapters 2 & 3 (“The Development of Commerce between Europeans and Africans,” and “Slavery and African social structure”), pp. 43-97\*

Class visit to the Penn Museum (3260 South Street – KRESS ENTRANCE) for tour of Mesoamerican/South American collection and lecture by archivist Alex Pezzati. Please plan to arrive promptly at 3:30pm.

## **PART II: CONQUEST**

## **WEEK 4**

### **First Encounters**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 41-51 (“First Encounters in the New World”).

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Introduction-Chapter 2 (“The Lost Words of Bernal Diaz,” “The Myth of Exceptional Men,” and “The Myth of the King’s Army”), pp.xiii-43.

Fray Ramón Pané, [\*Relación of the Taino\*](#)\*

### **The Age of Conquest**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 52-79 (“The Conquest of Mexico,” “The Conquest of Peru,” “The Ebbtide of Conquest,” and “Black Participation in the Age of Conquest”).

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Chapter 3 (“The Myth of the White Conquistador”), pp. 44-63.

## **WEEK 5**

### **Brazil and the Fringe Areas**

James Lockhart and Stewart Schwartz, Chapters 6 and 8, *Early Latin America: A History of Colonial Latin America and Brazil*, pp. 181-201, 253-304\*

### **The Columbian Exchange**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 80-93 (“Conundrums and the Columbian Exchange”).

Alfred W. Crosby, “Old World Plants and Animals in the New World,” *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (London: Praeger, 2003), pp. 64-121\*

## **PART III: COLONIZATION**

## **WEEK 6**

### **Church and State**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 94-122 (Chapter 3: “Ruling Orders and Empires”).

*Document*: “The Telling of Tales: A Spanish Priest and His Maya Parishioners,” *Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History*, pp. 18-31

### **Indian Labor**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 123-143 (“Changes in the Colonial Population,” and “Indian Labor”).

Matthew Restall, *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*, Chapter 6 (“The Myth of Indian Desolation”), pp. 100-130.

## **WEEK 7**

### **African Slavery**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 144-155 (“Slavery and the Slave Trade”).

Herbert S. Klein and Ben Vinson, *African Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Chapters 1 and 2 (“Origins of the American Slave System,” and “The Establishment of African Slavery in Latin America in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century”), pp. 1-44\*

### **The Colonial Economy**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 156-193 (Chapter 5: “Production, Exchange, and Defense”).

## **WEEK 8**

### **A New Human Landscape**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp.194-224 (Chapter 6: “The Social Economy: Societies of Caste and Class

Ilona Katzew, “ ‘A Marvelous Variety of Colors?’: Racial ideology and *el sistema de castas*,” *Casta Painting: Images of Race in Eighteenth-Century Mexico* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005), pp. 39-62.\*

*Document*: “The Hispanized Indian,” Enrique Otte, *Letters and Peoples of the Spanish Indies: Sixteenth Century*, pp. 155-159\*

### **Family**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp.225-248 (Chapter 7: The Family and Society”).

Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds., *The Faces of Honor*, Introduction and Chapter 1 (“Honor and Honors in Colonial Spanish America”), pp. 1-17, 18-44

## **WEEK 9:**

## **The Culture of Honor**

Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds., *The Faces of Honor*, Chapters 6 & 7 (“Honor among Plebeians,” and “A Slap in the Face of Honor”), pp. 152-178, 179-200

*Document:* Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, “Scandal at the Church: José de Alfaro Accuses Doña Theresa Bravo and Others of Insulting and Beating His Castiza wife, Josefa Cadena,” Richard Boyer and Jeffrey Spurling, eds., *Colonial Lives*, pp. 216-223.

## **Women and the Church**

Lyman L. Johnson and Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, eds., *The Faces of Honor*, Chapter 2 (“Honor, Sexuality, and the Colonial Church”), pp. 45-67

Susan Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, Chapter 7 (“The Brides of Christ and Other Religious Women”), pp. 90-111\*

*Document:* “Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz’s Letter to Sor Filotea,” *Colonial Latin America: A Documentary History*, pp. 207-215\*

## **PART III: THE MATURE COLONIES**

### **WEEK 10**

#### **Bourbon Reformism**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp.288-356

## **THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS**

## **PART IV: REFORM, REBELLION, AND COLLAPSE**

### **WEEK 11**

#### **The Haitian Revolution**

*Document:* Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen\*

#### **Imperial Crisis**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 357-370 (Chapter 10: “Crisis and Political Revolutions”)

Simon Bolivar, “A Letter by a South American to a Gentleman of this Island.”\*

## **WEEK 12**

### **Independence**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 371-392 (Chapter 11: “From Empire to Independence”).

Peter Blanchard, “The Slave Soldiers of Spanish South America: From Independence to Abolition,” Christopher Leslie Brown and Philip D. Morgan, eds. *Arming Slaves: from Classical Times to the Modern Age* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), pp. 255-273\*

### **Closing Thoughts**

Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 392-404 (Chapter 12: “Epilogue”).