

LLAS 101 Syllabus - Spring 2010

**TU 6:10pm – 8:50pm
El Centro Rm. 137**

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**Office Hours: W 6:00pm – 7:00pm and 9:45pm – 10:00pm
or arranged by appointment**

**Required Texts: Harvest of Empire by Juan González
Dangerous Memories by Golden et al.**

Additional articles will be available as handouts and/or on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory level history course is a general survey of the history of the people of Latin American and Latinos in the USA. We examine the shared histories, as well as critical individual experiences of related areas and main regions. It begins with a historical overview of the major events and people of Pre-Columbian times. We will then examine and interpret the impact and legacy of the European invasion, The Colonial Era and the role of the church, mostly from a Latin American perspective, and including five hundred years of migration and major Diasporas as a result of European colonization. We will proceed to consider processes of social protest, resistance and riots, ethnicity, racial hierarchies, identity and nationalism, revolutions, wars of independence and nation-state building. The course will also explore relations with the USA, focusing on imperialism and dependency theory, uses of land and other natural resources, society, creation of borders, creation of markets, art and culture, proximity and globalization. You will also be introduced to and study in depth key characters representative of the unique cultures and sentiments of the Latin American realm.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To compare, differentiate and describe Latino communities in the US and Latin American regions, societies, and cultures in a truly inter-disciplinary manner within an anthropological, artistic, religious, political, economical, environmental, and social perspective.
2. To develop critical thinking skills and the ability to discuss, critique and justify complex and often controversial thoughts and ideas, and historical events.
3. To identify and acquaint yourself with Latino and Latin American prominent and determinant institutions, organizations, groups and individuals.
4. To discuss and explore individual issues of interest to you and beneficial to your chosen profession within Latin America and latino history.
5. To consolidate your thoughts into various products: oral and written assignments, papers, collaborative work, debate, and classroom presentations.

ATTENDANCE AND POLICIES

Attendance is essential to your grade. Two absences will be permitted without penalty if no graded activities/assignments are missed. After two absences, written justification by NEIU faculty, staff, or by court or physician will be mandatory. Your grade will also be lowered by 10% for each unexcused absence.

PARTICIPATION

I expect you to be an active participant in each class. It includes excellent attendance, thoughtful discussion within the context, and **answering specific questions about the assigned readings**. Participation is also based on your cooperation with peers. You should communicate with them in and out of class, and share any knowledge of materials that might enhance your individual assignments and projects.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

NEIU Students are expected to demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work at all times. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty will be subject to discipline. It includes cheating, ignoring copyright laws, plagiarism, submission for credit of work attributable to someone else, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student.

GRADING

Your grades will be based on the following distribution:

Participation and attendance	15%
Three 1-2 page response papers	15%
Final 5 page essay	20%
Mid-Term test	25%
Group project and oral/visual presentation	20%
Final Debate	5%

GRADING SCALE

90-100%:	A
80-89%:	B
70-79%:	C
60-69%:	D
Below 59%:	F

MAKE-UP POLICIES

Routine appointments, even if they are medical or dental, early vacation departures, or late vacation arrivals, are not considered excused absences. Make-ups are allowed strictly for excused absences such as medical emergencies, and within a limited time. Missing a deadline will significantly affect your grade.

RESPONSE PAPERS

You will be assigned a topic to research and write a critical response of no more than two pages. You will be required to turn in three of these responses.

ESSAY

The essay must be 5 pages long, doubled space, with the body in a regular size font (Times, Century, Palatino) at 12 points, and a 1 inch margin on each side. Your paragraphs must be clearly introduced as well as your opening statement and conclusion. I will give you the necessary guidelines for the essay in class.

MIDTERM TEST

The test will include questions from the readings and discussions, a map activity, characters and definitions.

FINAL DEBATE

You will choose, research and defend a chosen historical character.

GROUP PROJECT AND ORAL/VISUAL PRESENTATION

You will be assigned to a group that focuses on a topic affecting Latin Americans and/or Latinos. Time will be provided throughout the semester for your small group to research the issue in question and discuss how it relates to specific Latin American countries and Latino groups. On an assigned date, your group will make a presentation to the rest of the class. Following is a summary of key criteria to be used when evaluating your project. The group presentation, skit, performance, or other form of presenting is to focus on a key theme, issue or problem that you believe is central to understanding the history, struggles, relationships, and expressions of Latin Americans and/or Latinos.

CRITERIA FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Your presentation should last between 20 and 30 minutes per team -additional time will not be allowed. Schedule 15 minutes after the presentation for questions and answers.
- Each student must be involved in some specific way, e.g. research, assist in media use and presentation, discussion, visual presentation, etc. Everyone is expected to participate in the oral presentation. Avoid making the presentation a “one-person” show.
- Use good presentation techniques, e.g. overheads, realia, recordings, media, charts, maps, handouts.
- Be organized, focused, and persuasive! Each student’s introduction has to be clear and specific to the topic he or she will be presenting.
- A paper must be submitted at the time of the presentation. It should clearly focus on the selected topic, project goals, and clearly state the division of labor within the group. Grading criteria include: content, organization, punctuality, quality, conciseness, balance, creativity, data accuracy. (We will talk about these in class.)
- Use relevant and timely data--where appropriate and available. (Data in Spanish is fine for me, but must be translated to English if used in handouts.)

For your bibliography and works cited section you are encouraged to look for high quality documents and websites that have academic merit as well as others that might be of popular or commercial interest. This must be included with your paper. The diversity and quality of documents you review for your project will be considered prime criteria in grading!

CLASS AND ASSIGNMENT SCHE DULE

Part One: Before the Invasion And the Colonial Period

- January 12** Introduction to the course: syllabus, expectations, readings, basic views on Latin America and geography
Assigned readings for next class:
Golden et al. (G) pages 7-25
Juan González (JG) Intro
- 19** Europe and the Old World Before the Conquest
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 27-30
JG pages 1-26
- 26** Native Americans Before the Conquest (US)
Topic for Response Paper #1 presented
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 31-35 and 60-63
Handout: Mesoamerica
- February 2** The Indigenous People of Mexico
Response paper # 1 due
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 36-47 and 134-137
Handout: Caribbean and Amazonian people
- 9** The Taínos and Other People of the Caribbean and the Amazon
Topic for Response Paper #2 presented
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 48-59, 64-67,82-99, 200-204 (from *The Gifts of Africans*)

16 Africans in Latin America
Response paper # 2 due
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 138-143, 183-193
Handout: The Andeans and People from the Southern Cone

23 The South American People
In class planning time for small group presentations
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 161-162,
Handout: The Central American People

March **2** The Central American People
Topic for Response Paper #3 presented
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 95-102, 68-81, 114-133

9 Native Resistance in the USA
Response paper # 3 due
Review all chapters and notes for test

16 In class planning time for small group presentations
MIDTERM test
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 211-222
Handout: Latin America Wars of Independence

March 22 to 28 Spring Recess

**Part Two: Independent Countries of Latin America
and Latinos in the USA**

- 30** Wars of independence
Topic for Final Essay presented - guidelines
Assignment for next class:
Meet with your team for group presentation
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 193-199
JG pages 27-95, 108-116

- April**
- 6** Neighbors to the North - Making of an Empire
Small group presentations (first half of the class)
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 144-160, 163-173
JG pages 96-107, 129-148
- 13** The Mexican and Central American Revolutions
Small group presentations (second half of the class)
Assigned readings for next class:
G pages 174-178
JG pages 167-267
Assignment for next class:
Write essay
- 20** Of Immigration, Borders, Language and Trade
5 page essay due today
Assignment for next class:
Research and represent a Latino or Latin American
Character for debate
- 27** Final Characters' debate
Last day to submit make-up work
Last day of Class