



Honors 201

América: Exploring Hispanic Origins

Spring 2019

Friday

8:00 to 8:50 A.M.

114 Burnham Hall

CRN 21944

Instructor: David Diego Rodríguez, Ph.D.	Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 8:00 - 8:50 A.M.
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América: Exploring Hispanic Origins

In this seminar, we will explore how Hispanic origins in the New World, starting with the first European contact by Spain beginning with Christopher Columbus, influenced modern Latin American writers. We will also examine some pre-Columbian history and customs, and how they changed after Spanish imperialism. Spanish political and religious ideologies shaped the colonies of the New World, New Spain and, later, Latin America. As George Santayana stated: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Latin American writers have never forgotten their pre-Columbian, indigenous past and strive to remind the reader of the past in order not to repeat it. We will examine how Columbus set the agenda for future Spanish imperialism in the New World and how his goals and consequences are ever-present to this day. We will examine how Abel Posse portrays Columbus in *The Dogs of Paradise* and how Latin America views the negative aspects of Columbus’s five voyages. The memoirs of Bartolomé de las Casas will highlight some of the atrocities and human rights violations that resulted from Spanish imperialism. We will also read the *Popol Vuh*, the Mayan “bible,” and explore how Rigoberta Menchú demonstrates how many of these ancient Mayan beliefs are still present in modern-day Guatemala. The short story “The Eclipse” by Augusto Monterroso and *Men of Maize* by Miguel Ángel Asturias will further demonstrate how their Mayan indigenous past has not been forgotten. The letters of Hernán Cortés and the memoirs of Bernal Díaz del Castillo will provide the background for “The Night Face-up” by Julio Cortázar. By examining all these works in conjunction with each other, we will see that many Latin American writers remind the world of the past so that it will not be forgotten and, subsequently, repeated.

Class Participation

Each class period, we will discuss a short reading assigned to be read before class. There are not textbooks to buy. All texts are available on Blackboard. All students will participate in the class discussions on the weekly readings. We will examine how the past political policies of imperial Spain and the Latin American wars of independence have impacted modern-day Latin America.

Discussion Board

Students will contribute to a weekly discussion board on Blackboard based on the readings discussed in class. Students must write a minimum of 50 words for the initial response to the discussion. No word restrictions for optional comments to other students.

Oral Presentation

Each student will examine how Spanish colonial history has affected Latin American literature and then give a brief presentation to the class for discussion. Write 4 - 5 pages paper that will be uploaded to SafeAssign. Outside sources are not required, but if used must be cited properly in the essay and the bibliography at the end of the paper.

Attendance

Students must attend all classes. However, two absences are allowed due to illness or other emergency circumstances.

Passing Grade: 70%

In order to receive a passing grade, the student will need to attend class, participate in class discussions, contribute to the weekly discussion board, and write a short paper to be presented to the class during weeks 11 through 14.

Final Grade

- 20 % Attendance and Participation
- 20% Discussion Board
- 60% Presentation

Plagiarism

All essays submitted must be the student's original ideas. Plagiarism is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action. Please read the UIC "Avoiding Plagiarism" and "Guidelines Regarding Academic Integrity," which are posted at:

- <https://researchguides.uic.edu/etds/plagiarism>
- <https://dos.uic.edu/docs/Guidelines%20for%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>

Disability statement

Students with disabilities must inform the instructor of the need for accommodations during the first week of the semester. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TTY). <http://drc.uic.edu/>

Week	Date	Topic	Minutes
1	January 18, 2019	Introduction Cristóbal Colón (Christopher Columbus), (1451-1506), Genoa "Letter from Christopher Columbus," March 14, 1493, pp. 1-7	50
2	January 25, 2019	Antonio de Nebrija, (1441-1522), Spain "The Prologue to the <i>Grammar of the Castilian Language</i> (1492), pp. 197-208	50
3	February 1, 2019	<i>Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiché Maya</i> , 1554-1558 Part 1, pp. 77-106	50
4	February 8, 2019	Hernán Cortés, (1485-1547), Spain "First Letter," pp. 123-171	50
5	February 15, 2019	Bernal Díaz del Castillo, (1492-1584), Spain <i>The Memoirs of the Conquistador Bernal Díaz del Castillo</i> . pp. 36	50
6	February 22, 2019	Bartolomé de las Casas, (1484-1566), Spain <i>A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies</i> , 1552, pp. 1-19	50
7	March 1, 2019	Catalina de Erauso, (1585-1650), Basque Country <i>Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World</i> , pp. 1-25	50
8	March 8, 2019	Simón Bolívar, (1783-1830), Caracas, Venezuela, New Granada "A Letter by Simón Bolívar," pp. 1-14	50
9	March 15, 2019	José Martí, (1853-1895), Cuba "Our America," pp. 1-11	50

Week	Date	Topic	Minutes
10	March 22, 2019	Miguel Ángel Asturias, (1899-1974), Guatemala 1967 Nobel Literature Prize <i>Men of Maize</i> , pp. 1-48	50
11	April 5, 2019	Julio Cortázar, (1914-1984), Argentina “The Night Face-up,” pp. 1-6 Presentations	50
12	April 12, 2019	Augusto Monterroso, (1921-2003), Honduras, Guatemala “The Eclipse,” pp. 1-2 Aztec Poetry Presentations	50
13	April 19, 2019	Abel Posse, (1934-) Argentina <i>The Dogs of Paradise</i> , pp. 1-41 Presentations	50
14	April 26, 2019	Isabel Allende, (1942-), Chile “Walimai”, pp. 60-73 Presentations	50
15	May 3, 2019	Rigoberta Menchú, (1959-), Guatemala 1992 Nobel Peace Prize “The Family”, pp. 1-6, “Birth Ceremonies”, pp. 7-17, “The Nahual”, pp. 18-20	50

Works Cited

- Allende, Isabel. "Walimai." *Short Stories in Spanish*. Ed. John R. King. London: Penguin Books, 1999.
- Asturias, Miguel Ángel. *Men of Maize*. Buenos Aires: Dell Publishing, 1975.
- Aztec Poetry*. <https://www.riverdell.org/cms/lib05/NJ01001380/Centricity/Domain/194/Aztec%20Poetry.pdf>
- Bolívar, Simón. "Carta de Jamaica." <http://faculty.smu.edu/bakewell/bakewell/texts/jamaica-letter.html>
- Casas, Bartolomé de las. *Historia de las Indias*. http://www-personal.umich.edu/~twod/latam-s2010/read/las_casasb2032120321-8.pdf
- Colón, Cristóbal. "Letter from Christopher Columbus," <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/sites/default/files/inline-pdfs/Columbus%20Letter%20Complete.doc.pdf>
- Cortés, Hernán. *Letters of Cortes*.
<https://ia800204.us.archive.org/6/items/lettersofcorts01cortuoft/lettersofcorts01cortuoft.pdf>
- Cortázar, Julio. "The Night Face Up." <https://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/shortfiction/NightFaceUp.pdf>
- Díaz del Castillo, Bernal. *The Memoirs of the Conquistador Bernal Díaz del Castillo*.
<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/32474/pg32474.txt>
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- Menchú, Rigoberta. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. London: Verso, 1984.
- Monterroso, Augusto. "The Eclipse." read:<https://lasesana.com/on-writing/the-eclipse-augusto-monterroso/>
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https://www.academia.edu/26440328/On_Language_and_Empire_The_Prologue_to_Grammar_of_the_Castilian_Language_1492_by_Antonio_de_Nebrija
- Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiché Maya*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978.
- Posse, Abel. *The Dogs of Paradise*. Trans. Margaret Sayers Peden. New York: Athenum, 1989.