History 8220

The Cultural History of Capitalism in Latin American

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Office hours: Thursdays, 3:40-5 or by appointment. Please come see me!

This course focuses on the legacy of colonialism in Latin America and on the cultural history of capitalism in the region. The emergence and growth of our current global economic system involved social, cultural, and environmental processes as well as economic ones; we will, therefore, focus on capitalism as a cultural as well as an economic phenomenon. Topics include the connections between colonialism, slavery, religion and capitalism; the nature of social movements and institutions intent on building, modifying, or destroying capitalist social and economic relationships; and, in particular, the nature of the shifts from export-led development to import-substitution industrialization to free market fundamentalism in much of Latin America during the 1870 to 2010 period. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to how racial and gender configurations fit into the logic of colonialism and capitalism.
Student Work: Every student will complete three four-page papers based on class readings. Please see the syllabus for the paper prompts and due dates. There will also be an eight to ten-page paper due at the end of the semester; this historiographical essay will involve several class books as well as four or five outside works tailored to your individual interests and decided upon in consultation with me. You will also turn in two formal 600-word reviews of course books that are not included in your four-page papers. One of these formal book reviews should be turned in before spring break.

- Please refer to the instructions and style sheets from one the following periodicals and model your two formal book reviews accordingly.
  - Hispanic American Historical Review (HAHR)
    [http://www.hahr.pitt.edu/bookreviewinstrux.html](http://www.hahr.pitt.edu/bookreviewinstrux.html)
  - American Quarterly (AQ)
  - Journal of American History (JAH)
    [http://www.indiana.edu/~jah/bookreviews.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~jah/bookreviews.shtml)

For additional advice on crafting a good review consider consulting (available on JSTOR):


Course Books

I encourage you to read the relevant chapters of a general textbook before each section of the course. The library has multiple copies of these textbooks. Here are three particularly useful works:

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America*.


Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*.

Books available for purchase or on reserve at the library:

Ana Alonso, *Thread of Blood*

Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers went Away*

Yanna Yannakakis, *The Art of Being In-Between*

Steve Stern, *Peru’s Indian Peoples*
Daniel James, Doña Maria’s Story

Sheldon Annis, God and Production in a Guatemalan Town

Pamela Voekel, Alone Before God

Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba

Rigoberta Menchú, I Rigoberta Menchú

David Stoll, Rigoberta Menchú and the Story of All Poor Guatemalans

James Scott, Seeing like a State

Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, Mexico Profundo. Reclaiming a Civilization

Please note that during the first part of the course, I will hand out copies of all of the course readings that are not available on JSTOR.

I may modify the syllabus slightly if I feel we need more general background or more theoretical readings. If you have suggestions about the balance of course readings, please do not hesitate to convey your concerns to me.

Please come see me at least a couple of times during the semester. I am in my office, 301c Leconte, on Thursdays from 3:40-5 or we can make an appointment. If you are reluctant to participate in our discussions, please see me immediately and we will work out a suitable strategy.

Course Introduction. Tuesday 12 January. How could so few defeat so many? Or did they?

Required reading:

Inga Clendinnen, “Fierce and Unnatural Cruelty: Cortes and the Conquest of Mexico” and her “Yucatec Maya Women.” These readings were sent to you by email and can be obtained from JSTOR. Organize discussion equipos (teams) for next week and beyond.

Section One

Colonialism and its Discontents

- Week One. Tuesday 19 January. On Kurakas and Class Traitors and Latin America in the World System

Required readings: Steve Stern, Peru’s Indian Peoples, all.
And Steve Stern, “Feudalism, Capitalism and the World-System in the Perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean” *American Historical Review* 93 (Oct. 1998) – with comment from Wallerstein & Stern’s reply. This is available through JSTOR. Group one leads our discussion of the Stern article only, not the Stern book!

Tuesday Night, 19 January: Extra Credit Activity (with History 4035 and 4200 and Women’s Studies 4900). The Present in the Past. *The Profundo* in Los Angeles? We will be grappling with immigration and the global economy at the end of the course, so this film provides a preview of coming attractions. Time and place TBA.

A scene from the award-winning PBS documentary “Made in L.A.”
Photo: Felicity Murphy

➢ Week Two. Tuesday 26 January. A Celebration of Dr. Yanna

Read: Yanna Yannakakis, *The Art of Being In-Between* (Duke University Press, 2009), pages to be assigned (roughly 200 pages total).

Suggestion: You might want to write a book review of Stern, Gutiérrez, or Yannakakis and focus your four-page paper on the two works you don’t include in your book review.


**Week Three. Tuesday 2 February. How to Write the History of the New World? Epistemological Murk. The Second Pueblo Uprising.**

Read: Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came*, pp. 1-140. Pueblo Critics Press Release, handed out in class last week.

OJO: The first draft of your first four-page paper is due to me this Friday 5 February by nine p.m. Please turn your paper into my office, 301c Leconte. Please bring three copies of this very same draft to class on Tuesday, 9 February; please note that all drafts should be a full four pages (1,100 word minimum); you will lose a full letter grade on your final paper if you do not bring a complete rough draft to class. We will conduct a short writing workshop with your paper drafts. The final paper is due to my office by 9 p.m. on Friday 11 February.

**Section Two. The Choreography of Meltdown**

- **Week Four. Tuesday 9 February. From Colonies to Nations I: The Rise of Liberalism and the Fall of the Ancien Régime**
Read: Voekel, *Alone Before God*, especially the intro and chapters 1, 2, and 5.

You should have three copies of your rough draft with you in class today. See 2 February for details.

The Independence era on film, pizza, drinks, writing workshop.


OJO: Extra credit class activity this weekend. Film: 1898, starring Ada Ferrer, Kristin Hoganson, and Louis Pérez, among others. Extra credit for hosting the film and the class at your house this weekend or early next week.

➢ **Week Five. Tuesday 16 February. From Colonies to Neo-Colonies: Male Bonding and Raceless Nationalism?**


**Section Three: Export-Led Development: National Agendas vs. Local Knowledge**

Read: James Scott, Seeing like a State, pp. 1-53. Samuel Popkin, selections from The Rational Peasant. Karl Marx, Capital, chapter 28. Enrique Cardosa, selections. Short selections on the Porfiriato from the textbook The Course of Mexican History. With the exception of the Scott reading, these chapters will be handed out in class during the first part of the semester. Group two will lead our discussion of the Scott vs. Popkin debate; group two will head up our musings on Marx.


Week Seven. Tuesday 2 March. Individual Tutorials on your Final Project.

Individual meetings with me to discuss your final eight to ten-page paper. We will arrange these meetings for early this week.

OJO: You must turn in at least one 600-word formal book review before next Monday, the start of Spring Break! Please see the instructions at the beginning of the syllabus.

Week Eight. Spring Break! March 8-12. Please note that you must turn in at least one book review before the start of Spring Break 2010!

Section Four. From Export-Led Development and Dictators to Import Substitution Industrialization and the Rise of Populism

Week Nine. Tuesday 16 March. The Mexican Revolution: Gender Disorder on the Border

Read: Ana Alonso, Thread of Blood, all—but skim the last chapter.

Katz, Pancho Villa. Gilbert Joseph, et. al., Everyday Forms of State Formation, Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, Mexico at the World’s Fairs, Katherine Bliss, Compromised Positions

Three copies of your second four-page paper draft are due in class this Tuesday. Your final paper is due to me on Friday, 27 February by 9 p.m. We will conduct an intensive writing workshop with your paper drafts.

Paper Question: The Mexican Revolution was fundamentally about peasants losing their land. Respond.

➢ Week Ten. Tuesday 23 March. Import Substitution Industrialization and the Rise of Populism. Revolutionary Parties?

Please note that the Becker and Knight articles are available from JSTOR. The Daniel James and Adrian Banjes chapters will be handed out the first several weeks of classes. Please note that group one will lead our discussion of Scott this week; group two will head up our musings on Banjes.

Week Eleven. Tuesday 30 March. What was Peronism?


A draft of your third and final four-page paper is due today in class. Your final draft is due to my office this Friday, 2 April. We will do a short writing workshop in class today, 30 March.

Paper question: Populists like the Perons and Cardenas manipulated workers and peasants to aggrandize their own personal power. Populism was a top-down imposition on a recalcitrant population. Respond.

**Section Five. The Shift to Free Market Fundamentalism: Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition**

- **Week Twelve. Tuesday 6 April. Transitions to Neoliberalism: Killing the Left**


➢ Week Thirteen. Tuesday 13 April. Transitions to Neoliberalism: God and Mammon


➢ Week Fourteen. Tuesday 20 April. Two Latin Americas?


Given all we have learned this semester, does Bonfil Batalla’s theory of the two Mexicos (or the two Latin Americas) make sense? Why? Why not?
Week Fifteen. THURSDAY 22 April. The Nuevo New South?! Guest Discussant Dr. Julie Wiese.

Required reading:

Guest speaker Dr. Julie Wiese will lead a discussion of her new work on Mexican immigration to the twentieth-century South (several articles and chapters to be assigned). Other special guests t.b.a. Dr. Wiese’s visit is brought to you by The Georgia Seminar on the Cultural History of Capitalism. Special thanks to Shane Hamilton, Vici Payne, and Bethany Moreton for collaborating in this event.

Please note that Dr. Wiese will be with us on Thursday, so there is no class on Tuesday. We will find a time on Thursday that works for everyone.

Highly recommended: The superb work-in-progress by UGA’s own Hannah Waits, Tore Olsson, and Tom Okie.

Friday, 6 May, High Noon: Eight to ten-page historiography paper due to me by email at voekel@uga.edu