

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>
 - American Quarterly (AQ)
http://www.americanquarterly.org/index.php/about/book_reviews
 - Journal of American History (JAH)
<http://www.indiana.edu/~jah/bookreviews.shtml>

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

- David Thelen, “Deciding What to Review,” *Journal of American History*, 85 (09/98), 620-25. JSTOR.
- Steven Stowe, “Thinking about Reviews,” *Journal of American History* 78 (09/91): 591–95. 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*.

John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of 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 María'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**

Yannakakis' new book. Guest discussion leader: Yanna Yannakakis.

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.

Highly Recommended on Native American/European relations in both the colonial and national periods of Latin American history: Susan E. Ramírez, *The World Turned Upside Down*. Alfredo Flores Galindo, *Buscando Un Inca*. Diane Nelson, *A Finger in the Wound*. Greg Grandin, *The Blood of Guatemala*. Alcida Rita Ramos, *Indigenism*. Camila Townsend, *Malintzin's Choices*. Kevin Terraciano, *The Mixtecs of Colonial Oaxaca*. James Lockhart, *The Nahuas after the Conquest*. Nancy Farriss, *Maya Society under Colonial Rule*. Alfredo López Austin, *The Human Body and Ideology: Concepts of the Ancient Nahuatl*. Kenneth Mills, *Idolatry and its Enemies*. Claudio Saunt, *A New Order of Things*. Rolena Adorno, *Guayman Poma*. Nelson Reed, *The Caste War of Yucatan*. Sinclair Thomas, *We Alone will Rule*. Matthew O'Hara, *A Flock Divided*. Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*. Brian DeLay, *War of a Thousand Deserts*.

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.

Highly Recommended on the Enlightenment, Independence, and Emancipation: Eric Van Young, *The Other Rebellion*. Laurent Dubois, *Avengers of the New World*. C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins*. Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*. Kim Butler, *Freedoms Given, Freedoms Won*. Patricia Seed, *To Love, Honor, and Obey. Conflicts over Marriage Choice in Colonial Mexico*. Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*. Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, *How to Write the History of the New World*. Muriel Nazzari, *Death of the Dowry*. Bianca Premo, *Children of the Father King*. Juan Pedro Viquiera-Albán, *Propriety and Permissiveness in Bourbon Mexico*. Jeremy Adelman, *Sovereignty and Revolution*.

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?**

Required Reading: Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, chapters to be assigned. And Selections from Davis and Haskell, *The Anti-Slavery Debate*, chapters handed out in class.

Highly recommended on racial configurations: Micol Seigel, *Uneven Encounters. Making Race and Nation in Brazil and the United States*. María Elena Martínez, *Geneological Fictions. Limpieza de Sangre, Religion, and Gender in Colonial Mexico*. Peter Wade, *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America*. Guillermo Bonfil-Batalla, *Mexico Profundo: Reclaiming a Civilization*. Richard Graham, ed., *The Idea of Race in Latin America*. Michael Hanschard, ed., *Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil*. Nikhil Pal Singh, *Black is a Country. Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy* (about the U.S., but useful nonetheless), Stephen Palmié, *Wizards and Scientists*. Nancy Lee Stephens, *The Hour of Eugenics*. For more on the relationship between capitalism and slavery, the place to start is Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*. Also see Ian Baucom, *Specters of the Atlantic. Finance Capital, Slavery, and the Philosophy of History*

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

➤ **Week Six. Tuesday 23 February. In Letters of Blood and Fire. Theories of State-Building, Dependent Development, and Peasant Resistance.**

Read: James Scott, *Seeing like a State*, pp. 1-53. Samuel Popkin, selections from *The Rational Peasant*. Karl Marx, *Capital*, chapter 28. Enrique Cardoso, 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.

Highly Recommended on Export-led Development, State-Building and Peasant Culture: Michael Taussig, *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism*. Greg Grandin, *The Blood of Guatemala*. Sidney Mintz, *Workers in the Cane*. Fernando Ortiz Fernández, *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*. José Teixeira Oliviera, *História do café no Brasil e no mundo*. Gilbert Joseph, *Revolution from Without*. Florencia Mallon, *The Defense of Community in Peru's Central Highlands and Peasant and Nation and Peasant and Nation*. William Roseberry, *Coffee and Capitalism*. Stanley Stein, *Vassouras: A Brazilian Coffee Country*. Nancy Schepler-Hughes, *Death without Weeping*. Barbara Weinstein, *The Amazon Rubber Boom*. Greg Grandin, *Fordlandia*. Ray Craib, *Fugitive Landscapes*.

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.

Highly recommended on the Porfiriato and the Mexican Revolution: John Womack, *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution*. Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution*, vols. 1-2. Jocelyn Olcott, Mary Kay Vaughn, and Gabriela Cano, eds., *Sex in Revolution*. Frederick

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* Alan Knight's amazing collection of review articles, available on JSTOR. William Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club*. Mark Overmyer-Velasquez, *The Emerald City*.

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?**

Read: Alan Knight, "Latin American Populism." James Scott, *Seeing like a State*, pp.147-181 "The Revolutionary Party." Marjorie Becker, "Black and White and Color," available from JSTOR. Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration*, pp. 1-41. Adrian Banjes, "Saints, Sinners, and State Formation: Local Religion and Cultural Revolution in Mexico" from Steve Lewis and Mary Kay Vaughn, eds., *The Eagle and the Virgin*. 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.

Highly Recommended on Populism: Mary Kay Vaughn, *Cultural Politics in Revolution*. Marysa Navarro, *Evita*. Marjorie Becker, *Setting the Virgin on Fire*. Jocelyn Olcott, *Revolutionary Women in Revolutionary Mexico*. Anne Rubenstein, *Bad Language, Naked*

Ladies, and Other Threats to the Nation, Lauren Derby, *The Dictator's Seduction*. Susan Besse, *Restructuring Patriarchy*.

Week Eleven. Tuesday 30 March. What was Peronism?

Read : Daniel James, *Doña María's Story*, pp. 1-116 and 213-233. And Oscar Chamosa, ed., *The New Cultural History of Peronism.*, introduction. Please be sure to review the pages from *Resistance and Integration* assigned for last week (1-41).

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**

Read: Rigoberta Menchú, I Rigoberta Menchú, pages to be assigned. David Stoll, *Rigoberta Menchú and the Story of all Poor Guatemalans*, pages to be assigned.

For conflicting explanations of the shift to neoliberalism, see Greg Grandin, *Empire's Workshop*. Deborah Levenson-Estrada, *Trade Unionists Against Terror*. Steve Stern's trilogy on Pinochet's Chile. Sara Babb, *Managing Mexico*, and the cutting-edge work of UGA's own Derek Bentley.



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

Read: Sheldon Annis, *God and Production in a Guatemalan Town*. And Bethany Moreton, “On a Mission,” chapter from her *To Serve God and Wal-Mart*. The Moreton chapter will be handed out during the first several weeks of classes.

Highly recommended on the intersections of politics, economics, and religion in Latin America in the post-1970s period: Roger Lancaster, *Thanks to God and the Revolution*. Reinaldo Román, *Governing Spirits*, especially the final chapter on the *chupacabras*. Ana Peterson, *The Politics of Martyrdom*. David Stoll, *Is Latin America Turning Protestant?* Gustavo Gutiérrez, *Liberation Theology*. Ricardo Falla, *Quiche rebelde*. Elizabeth Brusco, *The Reformation of Machismo*.

Week Fourteen. Tuesday 20 April. Two Latin Americas?

Read: Guillermo Bonfil Batalla, *Mexico Profundo. Reclaiming a Civilization*, all.

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?



Protestors at an Immigration Demonstration

➤ **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