

**History and Geography of Latin America
History 204**

**Dr. Phyllis L. Smith
Spring 2005**

Class

11-11:50 a.m., MWF
Cornwell 223

Office Hours

10-11 a.m., MWF; 3-4 p.m., MW; and by appointment
321 Cornwell, 689-1133; psmith@mhc.edu

Course Description

History 204 is an introductory survey course of the history and geography of Latin America. It examines this vast region from the pre-Hispanic era to present day in an attempt to understand the complexities of this place we call "Latin America."

Required Readings (Available in the MHC Bookstore)

Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, John Chasteen [BBF]
Readings on Reserve, MHC Library [Reading]
Internet Readings via URL (see course schedule)

Course Goals and Objectives

Students will learn the physical and cultural characteristics of Latin American geography as well as an overview of the economic, political, and social history of this vast region. The course is designed to provide students with an appreciation of the diverse culture and civilization of Latin American in a historical context. Special attention will be made to the region's ethnic and racial heritage and diversity, cultural institutions, gender relations, and the unique relations between Latin American and the United States.

Instructional Methods

Material will be presented via readings, lectures, class discussions, videos (films and documentaries), overheads, handouts, internet assignments, and maps. We will also be using the Blackboard System (www.bb.mhc) [See Back Page of Syllabus] for postings to the Discussion Board (reading responses), announcements, and assignments.

Course Policies and Evaluation Procedures

Attendance and Participation*	10%
Discussion Board Assignments**	10%
Video Responses ***	5%
Geography Exam	15%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%

* Regular attendance and full participation in the class is expected of each student. Students are allowed three absences (either excused or unexcused) and each additional absence will be reflected in the lowering of the student's final grade. Students are expected to come to class prepared having completed the readings or assignments and to participate in all class discussions.

**Discussion Board assignments are via Blackboard and include students' responses to the readings. *All responses are due, i.e. posted, by 9 a.m. on the day indicated in the course schedule.*

***Students will write a 500-word response to each video/documentary that is shown in class. Instructions for the video responses is on Blackboard.

CLASSROOM POLICIES: Please arrive on time to class and having taken care of all necessary bodily functions prior to class. No food is permitted, but drinks are allowed. **All cell phones and pagers must be turned off.**

CLASS CANCELLATION: In case of bad weather, instructions will be left through the Blackboard Announcements.

Course Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Assignment
1/12	Introduction to course/syllabus What is Latin America and where is it?	
1/14	Geography of Latin America	BBF: Ch. 1 Latin American Geography-related Web Sites: www.lanic.utexas.edu www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/
1/17	Geography of Latin America, contd.	Blackboard Geography Assignment Due
1/19	GEOGRAPHY EXAM	
1/21	Pre-Hispanic America Early civilizations	Olmecs: http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/olmecs.htm Teotihuacan: http://archaeology.la.asu.edu/teo/
1/24	The Mayas	www.mayalords.org www.mayacalendar.com Reading 1A – No BlackBoard Response
1/26	Video – <i>Popol Vuh</i>	www.crystalinks.com/popolvuh.html www.jaguarpaw.com/Popol.html
1/28	The Aztecs	Templo Mayor: http://archaeology.la.asu.edu/tm/index2.php Reading 1 – No BB Response Video Response Due
1/31	The Incas	http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/incas.htm Reading 2 BB Response

2/2	Origins of the Spanish Conquistadors; The First Encounters	BBF: pp. 29-48 Reading 3 BB Response
2/4	Conquest of the Aztecs	BBF: pp. 48-52 Reading 4 – No BB Response
2/7	Conquest of the Incas Video – <i>Conquistadors</i>	
2/9	EXAM 1	Video Response Due
2/11	Early exploration and establishment of Spanish America	BBF: pp. 52-57 Reading 5 BB Response
2/14	Colonial Spanish America – Politics	BBF: pp. 68-73 Reading 6 – No BB Response
2/16	Colonial Spanish America – Economics	BBF: pp. 63-67 Reading 7 – No BB Response
2/18	Colonial Spanish America – Society	BBF: pp. 58-61, 73-91
2/21	Class Discussion: Colonial Society	Readings 8, 9, & 10 BB Responses
2/23	Class Discussion: Three Views of Colonial Women	Readings 11, 12, & 13 BB Responses
2/25	Colonial Portuguese America – Brazil Video – <i>Quilombo</i>	Reading 14 – No BB Response
2/28	Video Contd.	
3/2	EXAM 2	Video Response Due
3/4	The Independence of Latin America – Bolívar and San Martín	BBF: Ch. 4 Reading 15 – No BB Response
3/7	Independence, contd. – Mexico and Brazil	Reading 16 – No BB Response
3/9	Dictators and Revolutions	BBF: Chs. 5 & 6
3/11	Dictators and Revolutions, contd.	
3/14	SPRING BREAK	
3/16	SPRING BREAK	
3/18	SPRING BREAK	
3/21	Video – <i>Camila</i>	Reading 18 – No BB Response
3/23	<i>Camila</i> , contd.	
3/25	NO CLASS	
3/28	Class Discussion	Reading 17 BB Response Video Response Due
3/30	Triumph of Neo-Colonialism	BBF: Ch. 7

4/1	Triumph of Neo-Colonialism, contd.	
4/4	EXAM 3	
4/6	Modern Latin America – Politics Case Study: Mexico	BBF: Chs. 8 & 9
4/8	Video: <i>Memories of a Mexican</i>	
4/11	Modern Latin America – Military Case Study: Argentina	BBF: Ch. 10 Video Response Due
4/13	Video – <i>Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo</i>	
4/15	MAKE-UP DAY	Video Response Due
4/18	Modern Latin America – Religion Case Study: Brazil	
4/20	Video: <i>Miracles are Not Enough</i>	
4/22	U.S.-Latin American Relations	BBF: Ch. 11 Video Response Due
4/25	U.S.-Latin American Relations, contd.	
4/27	Video – <i>The Gringo in Mañanaland</i>	Video Response Due at time of exam

FINAL EXAM: Monday, 2 May, 8-10 a.m.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is an act by a student to use and/or represent the work (research, writing, creative work, examination answers) of other individuals as that of his or her own production. The work of others represented by an individual as his or her own is inherently dishonest and is not a fair measure of the competence, knowledge and achievement of that individual. Academic dishonesty is contrary to the standards, ethics and goals of higher education and the Mars Hill College Honor Code: “We, the students of Mars Hill College, pledge ourselves to uphold integrity, honesty, and academic responsibility in and out of the classroom.” Students committing academic dishonesty shall be penalized in accordance with the Honor Code policies.

Information on Blackboard

- The internet address for MHC Blackboard is: www.bb.mhc.edu It can be accessed via the Mars Hill College Home Page
- Student logins are the same as your network login. Remember: Blackboard is case sensitive, but network logins are not.
- Passwords: If you have a previous Blackboard account, your password is the same. If you are a new Blackboard user, your password is your 9-digit identification number. Change your password to your choice by using the Personal Information screen under Tools.
- If you have any questions/problems, contact the IT help desk at X 1444.

What Blackboard is used for:

- ❑ Announcements: All announcements from the professor regarding the class. This includes information about class during bad weather.
- ❑ Course Documents: Copies of important class documents such as syllabi.
- ❑ Assignments: All class assignments, i.e. reading guides, study guides, paper assignments, etc.
- ❑ Discussion Boards: Student responses to prompts about reading assignments and other writing assignments.
- ❑ Groups: For use by groups for projects and presentations. These include email, discussion, etc.
- ❑ Tools: These include Personal Information for changing passwords and a student manual for using Blackboard.