

History of the Catholic Church in Latin America

History 483 Spring 2015 CRN: 32732 MW 2:00-3:20 105 Peterson

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Office Hours:
R2-4pm
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Catholic Church has been one of the most powerful, durable, and influential institutions in Latin America's history since the European conquest. The Church has also held a particularly controversial role in the region. It played a crucial role in the conquest by, and solidification of, European empires and formed an integral part of colonial states. It served as the champion of the vulnerable, protecting women, natives, the poor, children, and non-whites against powerful oppressors. It spread literacy, art, and education. It also became the largest, richest landowner in the Western hemisphere, and therefore earned the envy and enmity of many. The story of the Latin American Church, then, is tremendously complex as it blends the highest idealism, power politics, battles over souls and control of sacred truth, sublime beauty, finance and economics, and an enormously diverse body of people spread across a continent and a half. This course begins with pre-contact religious-political conditions and extends up through the late nineteenth century. Throughout, we will consider both the evolution of the Church as an institution (as an organization and as a player on the field of politics) and the evolution of Catholicism as a religion that deeply affected people's culture, sense of the divine, ethics, and worldview. We will pursue this investigation with both scholarly studies and original sources. Throughout, we will be guided by such questions as: To what degree did the Church achieve the religious conversion of the Native Americans and the forcibly imported Africans? To what degree did those people change the Church? How did the Church function as a part of the colonial state? How did independence and the spread of liberalism in the nineteenth century affect relations between the Church, the state, and society? How did Christian values change over time, and how did they affect politics, economics, and culture?

READINGS:

Books: The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

- Course Packet
- *Cross and Sword: An Eyewitness History of Christianity in Latin America*. H. McKennie Goodpasture, ed. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2000.
- *Documenting Latin America*. Erin O'Connor and Leo Garofalo, eds. Pearson Longman 2014.
- Schwaller, John Frederick. *The History of the Catholic Church in Latin America: From Conquest to Revolution and Beyond*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2011.

EVALUATIONS

Map quiz (April 8)	2%
Reading Paragraphs	20%
Papers (50%)	
Paper 1 Draft 1 (April 28)	10%
Paper 1 Draft 2 (May 8)	10%
Paper 2 Draft 1 (May 22)	15%
Paper 2 Draft 2 (June 4)	15%
Final Exam (Wednesday, June 11, 10:15am)	23%
Participation	(+/-)

- 1) Map Quiz: Identify the names and capitols of all the countries of modern mainland Spanish and Portuguese America as well as the islands of Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. You will not need to identify the other islands or the Guyanas.
- 2) Reading Paragraphs: Starting week 2, by 12noon on Wednesday, post to Blackboard a paragraph that analyzes the week's reading assignment. The paragraph must include an analysis of at least two of the week's primary sources (except week 7, which doesn't assign primary sources). Your reading paragraph with the lowest score will be dropped from your final grade.
- 3) Papers: You will write two papers that analyze the course reading. For each paper, you will write a short first draft, receive comments, then submit a full second draft.
- 4) Final exam: Will be comprehensive, based on both reading and lecture materials.
- 5) Participation: I can increase/decrease your course score by 1/3 letter grade based on your participation in class. For instance, your grade could move from a B to a B- or B+ based on whether you consistently participate in class in a way that is thoughtful, respectful, demonstrates you are doing the work, and improves the discussion.

Grading: Numbered scores correspond to letter grades as follows: Numbers in the 90s are As, the 80s are Bs, the 70s are Cs, the 60s are Ds, and below 60 is an F. Plusses and minuses work as follows: 80-82 = B-; 83-86 = B; 87-89 = B+. Any decimal below .5 gets rounded down, any decimal of .5 or above gets rounded up. So 86.4 becomes 86, which is a B; 86.5 becomes 87, which is a B+.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance: You are expected to attend each class, to have finished the reading assignment before class, and to participate in discussion.
2. Respect: Mutual respect and courtesy are necessary for the course to be a success. No eating, talking, listening to music, or reading the newspaper in class.
 - a. Cell phones: Turn off your cell phones before class starts; Professor Zahler has the right to answer any in-class calls or texts that you receive.
 - b. Computers: You may use a computer during class time for taking notes but not for extraneous activities; computer users should sit in the front of the class.
3. Late assignments: The reading paragraphs/comments have a firm deadline and will not be accepted late. You can submit papers late and you will lose points on late

assignments at a rate of 10pts/day. You can get an extension if you have a legitimate reason (e.g. health problems, a death in the family, imprisonment, alien abduction, etc.). Legitimate reasons require supporting evidence. Snowboarding on Mt. Bachelor is not a legitimate reason.

4. You may not sell class notes to other students. You may not use Blackboard for commercial purposes or to advertise items for sale. Use of services that sell course notes is prohibited because they contradict the educational purpose of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Any work you submit must be your own and must be produced exclusively for this class – plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All ideas from other sources must be properly cited. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Be aware that consequences for plagiarism or cheating can include an F in the course, suspension, or expulsion. For further information on this subject, as well as guidelines for proper citation, see the web sites:

Student Conduct Code for Academic Misconduct:

<https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx>

Plagiarism Guide for Students:

<https://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, we will learn not only a body of historical information but also will refine a set of intellectual skills that apply to any professional career path you will pursue. In this course you can expect to learn:

- Major religious and political trends in Latin America from the fifteenth through the nineteenth centuries
- How to use religion and religious institutions as analytical lenses to gain deeper understanding of this course's particular period and the interaction of political, economic, cultural, and social forces more broadly
- How the discipline of history uses primary and secondary sources, and works with inconsistent or contradictory evidence
- How to use analysis, evidence, and critical questions to understand complex situations
- Improved communication skills: How to deliberate orally in public, and how to write a clear essay with an evidence-based argument

SCHEDULE

Note: Complete readings before the class for which they are assigned, in the order listed.

Reading Codes:

Readings in the syllabus will be marked as follows:

“DLA” for *Documenting Latin America*

“CP” for Course Packet

Pre-Contact

Week 1: Pre-contact religion: Iberia, the Americas, and Africa in the fifteen century

March 30: Introduction

April 1: Religion in the fifteenth century

- Schwaller: Introduction, Chapter 1 (pp1-32)

Contact, Conquest, Colony

W2: First Contact and conquest (1492-1600)

April 6:

- Schwaller, Chapter 2-3
- *DLA*: Introduction, Chapters 6-7

April 8:

- CP: *Colonial Lives*, Chapters 3-5
- ❖ Map Quiz

Week 3: Establishing the Colonial Church

April 13:

- Schwaller: Chapter 4
- *DLA*: Chapters 9, 13

April 15:

- *DLA*: Chapters 8, 16, 18
- CP: *Colonial Lives*, Chapters 10, 13

Week 4: The Mature Colonial Order

April 20:

- Schwaller: Chapter 5
- *DLA*: Chapter 24
- CP: “The Mangy Parrot,” pp11-15
- *Cross & Sword*: pp79-97

April 22: No assignment

❖ Watch *The Mission* one evening this week

Independence and Early Republican Periods

W5: Independence Wars

April 27:

- Swaller: Chapter 6
- *DLA*, Chapter 26
- *Cross & Sword*: Chapter 6
- CP: *Latin American Independence*, pp107-117

➤ Paper 1 Draft 1 due: April 28, 10am

April 29:

- [Venezuela](#), 1811. Go here:
 - <http://scholarship.rice.edu/jsp/xml/1911/9253/1/aa00032.tei.html#div1008>
- [Mexico](#), 1821. Go here: <http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/igualala.htm>
 - First part is in Spanish, must scroll down for English

Week 6: Early Republican Period

May 4:

- Swaller: Chapter 7
- CP: Reuben Zahler, “Heretics, Cadavers, and Businessmen” in *Connections after Colonialism*
- *Cross & Sword*: Chapter 7

May 6:

- *DLA* v2, Chapter 12
- CP: *The Mexico Reader*, pp 220-38 [Articles by a Liberal and by a Conservative]

➤ Paper 1 Draft 2 due: May 8, 10am

Neo-Colonial Period

Week 7: Early Republican Period

May 11:

- CP: Douglas Sullivan-Gonzalez, *Piety, Power, and Politics*, Chapters 4-5

May 13:

- CP: Peter Henderson: *Gabriel García Moreno*, Chapter 6

Week 8: Early republican to Neo-Colonial Decades

May 18:

- CP: Susan Schroeder. *Father José María Luis Mora, Liberalism, and the British and Foreign Bible Society in Nineteenth-Century Mexico*.
- CP: “On Ecclesiastical Wealth,” by José María Luis Mora, in *Nineteenth Century Nation Building*

May 20:

- Schwaller: Chapter 8
- *Cross & Sword*: Chapter 9
- CP: “Reply to a Pseudo-Catholic sophist,” by Juan Montalvo, in *Nineteenth Century Nation Building*, Chapter 11

➤ Paper 2, Draft 1 due: May 22, 10am

Week 9: The Neo-Colonial decades

May 25: Memorial Day – no classes

May 27: Day to catch up

- CP: *DLA* v2, Chapter 15

Week 10: Neo-Colonialism and Protestantism

June 1:

- CP: *Christianity in Latin America*, Chapter 7
- *Cross & Sword*: Chapter 8, 10

➤ Paper 2, Draft 2 due: June 2, 10am

June 3:

- Wrap up and Review

Final Exam: Mon., June 8, 2:45 – 4:45pm, Location TBA