Latin American Humanities I

Purpose:

This course is designed to offer an overview of Latin American culture that emphasizes specific social and intellectual movements through an analysis of representative texts, music, art, and critical literature covering the colonial and independence periods. The selected materials are essential documents of their times and are also, often, influential statements about Latin American history and identity.

Assigned Readings:

All readings that appear on the syllabus below are required.

Works by Bartolomé de las Casas, Bernal Díaz del Castillo, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, El Inca Garcilaso de las Vega, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Domingo F. Sarmiento, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, Gabriel García Márquez and the socio-political history book, Colonial Latin America, may be purchased at the University Book Store (Spanish Section).

--Copies of the readings in Spanish and English are on reserve at Butler Library.

--Selections from other assigned readings may be purchased in the Main Office of the Casa Hispánica (Cortés' Second Letter; Padre Antônio de Vieira; Gregório de Matos; Catalina de Erauso; selections from José Martí; selections from Rubén Darío.

Background Readings:

Recommended handbooks available at Butler Library (Reference): Collier and Skidmore (eds.), The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean; Leslie Bethell, (ed.), The Cambridge History of Latin America (CHLA). Note that portions of the latter are required reading in this course.

Course Requirements and Grading:

In a seminar, students are expected to attend all sessions, and to prepare thoroughly the readings before the class lectures and discussions.

1. Active and Purposeful Participation, including specific textual analyses...15%
2. Paper: 7-10 pages.................................................................15%
3. Midterm Examination..........................................................15%
4. Seminar Presentation.........................................................15%
5. Paper: 10-12 pages.............................................................20%
6. Final Examination............................................................20%
Week I:

Week II:
B. Discussion: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Castaways.

Week III:
A. Experience of the conqueror. Images of Cortés, the indigenous, Moctezuma, Tenochtitlan, St. James the Apostle, the Virgin Mary, and women.

Week IV:

Week V:
A. Conclusion. Video and Discussion: Macchu Picchu in context.
*Paper #1 assigned.

Week VI:
Discussion: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, "First Dream" and "Reply," A Sor Juana Anthology.
B. Continuation of Sor Juana. Discussion: Catalina de Erauso, Review; Slides and discussion: women and ethnicity in 17th-century art. Instructor's alternative: María Luisa Bemberg's Yo, la peor de todas, for Sor Juana and other cloistered women.
Week VII:
A. Continuation.
B. Midterm Examination.

Week VIII:

Week IX:

Week X:
*Final Paper assigned

Week XI:
A. Continuation.

Week XII:
Discussion: Rubén Darío, "In Winter," "It Was a Gentle Air," "To Roosevelt," "To Columbus"
B. Continuation.
Week XIII: