

LAS2010 Introduction to Latin American Studies

Winter 2013-14
Professor Judith Broome
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Required text: Chasteen, John . *Born in Blood and Fire: a Concise History of Latin America*. 3rd ed.
New York: Norton, 2011.

Course description: This course provides an introduction to the socioeconomic, political, and cultural formation of Latin America within a global context. It will explore the main historical traits and processes of the region from the pre-hispanic era until today. We will discuss the commonalities that the many countries in the region share, as well as the distinctive features of each unique national experience. Although we will extensively discuss the history of the region, this course aims to give you a comprehensive understanding of other elements that make up the Latin American identity. Therefore, we will also discuss social issues (such as religion, women's role in society, and race), and cultural issues (from popular culture to art and literature).

Course requirements: Everyone is expected to read all class material and participate thoughtfully in class discussions. It is important that you contribute not only with your "virtual" presence but by actively participating in all aspects of class. You should present thoughtful questions and well-reasoned arguments that are based, at least in part, on the assigned readings. The success of this course depends upon active participation by each and every member of the class, and your grades will be calculated accordingly. Deadlines will be clearly stated for all assignments, quizzes, and exams. All work must be completed and turned in before the stated deadline.

This is an online course, so you are expected to be responsible for your own work. You must do the readings and participate in all discussions in order to succeed in this course. Students can contact each other or the professor with questions or for discussion on any course-related topic.

All written work will be submitted electronically. Students should use MS Word with Times New Roman 12 pt font.

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Course Schedule

[specific dates for each assignment will be advised]

Week 1

- Read "Introduction" and chapters 1 and 2
- **Quiz 1** on ch. 1-2
- **Discussion Response 1**
- Read chapters 3 and 4
- **Quiz 2** on ch. 3-4
- **Discussion Response 2**
- **Discussion Response 3**

Week 2

- **Discussion Response 4**
- **MIDTERM**
- Read chapters 5 and 6
- **Quiz 3** on ch. 5-6
- **Discussion Response 5**
- **Discussion Response 6**

Week 3

- Read chapters 7 and 8
- **Quiz 4** on ch. 7-8
- **Discussion Response 7**
- **Discussion Response 8**
- **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM**

Grading:

4 Quizzes (6 pts. each)	24 points
8 Discussions (3 pts. each)	24 points
Midterm	20 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	<u>32 points</u>
Total:	100 points

NOTE: Quizzes, midterm, and final exams will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. The **Discussion** postings are the main writing element of this course; therefore, each post should be a short essay of about 400 words. Consider them formal essays: each post should have a thesis and be supported by textual citations from our book (cited in MLA or APA format). Please carefully edit and spell-check your work. It is usually best to compose your essay in MS-Word and then paste it into the text box.