This course is a general introduction to the history and culture of Latin America. Because the region encompasses many different countries over a very long stretch of time, the course cannot be comprehensive. It focuses instead on the major themes in the history of the region: colonization and interaction between Europeans, Africans, and indigenous people; the Atlantic slave trade and the creation of slave and plantation societies; race, nationalism, and revolution; and the place of the United States and Africa in the region.

The course emphasizes the use of original texts—Spanish and indigenous accounts of the Conquest, firsthand accounts of the slave trade, revolutionary manifestos, political cartoons, and a range of other sources. Thus in addition to the learning about the history and culture of Latin America, students will also be required to engage in close readings of texts, to develop their practices of scholarly interpretation, and to hone their abilities to develop scholarly arguments on the basis of original sources.

Requirements: Students are required to attend class, to participate in classroom discussions, and to complete all reading and writing assignments on time. We highly recommend that you complete the readings by the day for which they are listed on the syllabus; you will get more out of lectures that way. In all cases, they must be completed before the meeting of your weekly recitation sections. Students are also required to subscribe to the *Latin American News Dispatch*.

Written work for the course will include a take-home midterm due on [date] and a final examination on the officially scheduled date. There will be two required papers of 4-6 pages, due in class on [date]. One will be a film review; the other a novel review. Further guidelines for the papers will be handed out in class and will be available on NYU Classes. In addition, there will be two or three short exercises over the course of the semester, including reflections on an article students choose from the *Latin American News Dispatch*; sometimes these will be announced and due before a lecture and other times unannounced and prepared in class during recitation sections. These will be collected and checked, but not graded. **There will be absolutely no extensions granted for papers or exams**.

1. Sept 3 Intro

**UNIT 1: Colonialism**

2. Sept 8 Caribbean: Columbus and Hatuey
3. Sept 10 Mexico: Cortès and Moctezuma
4. Sept 15 Andes: Atahualpa and Pizarro
5. Sept 17 Colonial Society: Labor, Land, Extraction
6. Sept 22 Film: Even the Rain
7. Sept 24 The Atlantic Slave Trade
8. Sept 29 Plantation Society

Readings for this unit will include:
- Fray (friar) Ramón Pane, *An Account of the Antiquities of the Indians* (1494)
- Christopher Columbus, Extracts from *Journal* (1492)
- Hernán Cortés, Second Letter to Charles V (1520)
- Bartolomé de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1542)
- Guaman Poma, *Letter to a King* (1615)
- Catalina de Erauso, *Lieutenant Nun: Memoir of a Basque Transvestite in the New World*
- Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database (www.slavevoyages.org)
- Robert Conrad, ed., *Children of God’s Fire* (selections of documents)
- Film: Even the Rain

UNIT 2: Age of Revolution, 1
10. Oct 6 Age of Andean Insurrection
11. Oct 8 Age of Andean Insurrection
Fall break
12. Oct 15 Haitian Revolution
14. Oct 22 Film: Burn! or Last Supper
15. Oct 27 Independence
16. Oct 29 Independence

Readings for this unit will include:
- Sinclair Thomson, *Atlantic Studies* article
- David Geggus, ed., *The Haitian Revolution: A Documentary History*, selections
- Ada Ferrer, “Haiti, Free Soil, and Atlantic Antislavery”
- Michel-Rolph Trouillot, “An Unthinkable History”
- Sarah Chambers and John Chasteen, eds., *Latin American Independence: An Anthology of Sources* (Indianapolis: Hackett 2010), selections
- Film: Burn! or Last Supper
- Novel: Alejo Carpentier, *Kingdom of This World*

UNIT 3: Race, Nation and Empire
17. Nov 3 Cuba, between race war and racelessness
18. Nov 5 Empire’s Workshop: the US in the Caribbean
19. Nov 10 Haiti/DR
20. Nov 12 Culture and Sport
21. Nov 17 Film: Winn/or Gates
22. Nov 19 The Border
23. Nov 24 Race, mestizaje, indigenismo
No class Nov 26 Thanksgiving

Readings for this unit will include:
• Ada Ferrer, article from Radical History Review
• John Johnson, ed., Latin America in Caricature (selection of US cartoons)
• Edwidge Danticat, The Farming of Bones
• José Carlos Mariátegui, Seven Essays on Peruvian Reality. selections
• José Vasconcelos, The Cosmic Race, selections

Film: El Norte
Novel: Edwidge Danticat, The Farming of Bones or José María Arguedas, Yawar Fiesta or Deep Rivers

UNIT 4: Revolution, 2
24. Dec 1 Mexico
25. Dec 3 Bolivia
26. Dec 8 Cuba
27. Dec 10 Film: Memories of Underdevelopment

Readings for this unit will include:
• Emiliano Zapata, “Plan de Ayala”
• Selections from Gilbert Joseph and Thomas Henderson, eds., The Mexico Reader
• John Womack, Zapata and the Mexican Revolution
• Selections from Sinclair Thomson, et al., eds., The Bolivia Reader

Novel: Jesús Díaz, The Initials of the Earth or Rosario Castellanos, The Book of Lamentations
Film: Memories of Underdevelopement or Viva Zapata

28. Dec 15 Conclusions