

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST 210

History of Latin America

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the political, economic, cultural and social development of Latin America from prehistoric time up to the present day. The course will include a detailed study of Latin America's geography and its impact on Latin American cultures. The student will be able to analyze the major trends of Latin American history, early cultures and civilizations, spread of European contacts, impact of European conquest and colonization, and the development of independent Latin American nation-states. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the major geographic and climatic features of Latin America
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the general area (or areas) that are identified as Latin America
3. Explain the migrations of the first Americans from Asia
4. Analyze the beginning of human civilization in the Americas
5. Compare and contrast the key characteristics of the Olmecs, Mayans, Toltecs, Incas and Aztecs
6. Describe the culture of pre-Columbian America
7. Analyze the immediate impact of the Iberian conquest
8. Explain the main features of the colonial period
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the West Indies and the growth of the African slave trade
10. Understand the causes of the nineteenth and twentieth century revolutions for independence
11. Analyze the complex race relationships involving Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans
12. Illustrate the rise of modern, independent nation-states
13. Describe the influence of informal imperialism by Britain and the United States
14. Describe and evaluate the various current forms of government of Latin America
15. Evaluate the political turmoil caused by leftist governments, dictators, and military regimes
16. Analyze present day issues such as poverty, population growth, and environmental devastation
17. Develop arguments regarding how some of these problems may be solved
18. Deliver a formal presentation in class on an assigned topic relevant to the subject
19. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
20. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.

21. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
22. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
23. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

Major Topics

- I. Geography and climate of Latin America
- II. Migrations of native populations
- III. Native empires of Latin America
- IV. Iberian conquest
- V. Colonial Period
- VI. Slave Trade and West Indies
- VII. Rise of Independent nation-states
- VIII. Race Relations
- IX. Modern Latin America

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include exams, quizzes, written assignments, research papers, and class participation. Specific writing assignments (including research papers) will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing. In-class participation will explore historical theories, ideas, and current perspectives. Research assignments will focus heavily on historical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Social and Behavioral Science Core course and a History Core course.