SYLLABUS

History 351 - History of Latin America (4)  Ray E. Johnson, Ph.D.

Course Description
Latin American peoples from their Indian and Iberian origins. Emphasizes Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

Course Objectives
The course is designed to cover pre Colombian America, the period of European discovery, conquest and settlement, Luso, Franco and Hispanic civilization and the independence movements which led to the end of the colonial era. The early national and modern period will be surveyed especially noting the historical development of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. The interested student should gain a solid perspective of the complex origins of the United States’ neighbors to the south.

Course Requirements and Grading
During this course there will be a written synopses taken from the assigned textbook (Keen and Haynes, A History of Latin America) readings of selected pages from Part I, Part II and Part III (with a value of 5% of the course grade), two essay examinations, a mid-term and a final, from the Group 2 and Group 3 Topical Questions lists (each having a value of 20% of the course grade), one ten page term paper (the topic selected from the Group 1 Topical Questions list and having a value of 25% of the course grade), and two reviews two to five pages in length (each having a value of 15% of the course grade). One of which is a book review of a scholarly book written on a topic germane to the study of Latin American history and the second is a review of Carlos Fuentes’ five part video/dvd series, The Buried Mirror, that may be borrowed from the ULV by contacting dbland@laverne.edu. The mid-term exam will cover the eight topics listed on the Group 2 Colonial Period Topical Questions and the Final exam will cover the eight topics listed on the Group 3 National Period Topical Questions. Of the eight topical questions from Group 2 and Group 3, the instructor will select five and email them according to the schedule of assignments noted in the ‘Welcome Letter’ published on Blackboard along with other course materials. Students will select two of the five questions on which to write. Each essay examination is approximately two hours in length (one hour per question). Though these examinations are de facto open book it behooves the serious student, because of time constraints, to have mastered the material in advance so that the essays flow readily from brain to keyboard. The formats for the book and video/dvd reviews are noted among the course materials on Blackboard. The final assignment of the term is the researching and writing of the 10 page term paper including a bibliography of at least four references. The topic will be selected from one of the Group 1 list of Topical Questions in your Blackboard course materials that offer five topical questions covering the pre Colombian, colonial and national periods. Each student will select one of these topic on which to write. It is expected that students will research their respective topics utilizing academic library and online resources. The URL for the University’s Wilson Library is http://www.ulv.edu/~library. Students should use their ULV email address as all communication will be sent to that address. All assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents attached to an email to the professor. Students are strongly encouraged to read ahead, take notes, ask questions, study, master the Topical Questions and complete all of the assignments in a timely manner. Please feel free to contact the instructor regarding questions and
concerns pertaining to this course at (805) 448-4078 or by email at rjohnsonr@laverne.edu
Modification of this syllabus may be made at anytime at the professor’s discretion.