

History of the Catholic Church in Latin America

History 483 Fall 2022 CRN: 13493 TR 2:00-3:20 105 Fenton

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Office Hours:
Video: Fri 2-4pm
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Catholic Church has been one of the most powerful, durable, and influential institutions in Latin America's history since the European conquest. The Church has also held a particularly controversial role in the region. It played a crucial role in the conquest by, and solidification of, European empires and formed an integral part of colonial states. It served as the champion of the vulnerable, protecting women, natives, the poor, children, and non-whites against powerful oppressors. It spread literacy, art, and education. It also became the largest landowner and slave owner in the Western hemisphere, and therefore earned the envy and enmity of many. The story of the Latin American Church, then, is tremendously complex as it blends the highest idealism, power politics, battles over souls and control of sacred truth, sublime beauty, finance and economics, and an enormously diverse body of people spread across a continent and a half. This course begins with pre-contact religious-political conditions and extends up through the late nineteenth century. Throughout, we will consider both the evolution of the Church as an institution (as an organization and as a player on the field of politics) and the evolution of Catholicism as a religion that deeply affected people's culture, sense of the divine, ethics, and worldview. We will pursue this investigation with both scholarly studies and original sources. Throughout, we will be guided by such questions as: To what degree did the Church achieve the religious conversion of the Native Americans and the forcibly imported Africans? To what degree did those people change the Church? How did the Church function as a part of the colonial state? How did independence and the spread of liberalism in the nineteenth century affect relations between the Church, the state, and society? How did Christian values change over time, and how did they affect politics, economics, and culture?

READINGS:

The following books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

- Course Packet [Available only through the DuckStore]
- *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History*, Lee Penyak & Walter Petry, eds., Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY, 2006.
- Schwaller, John Frederick. *The History of the Catholic Church in Latin America: From Conquest to Revolution and Beyond*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 2011.

EVALUATIONS

Reading and Participating (25%)	
Map quiz (Oct 6)	2%
Participation	3%
In-class document analysis	5%
Reading Notes (due each Th before class)	15%
Essays (55%)	
Skeleton-Link Essay 1 (Oct 16)	10%
Skeleton-Link Essay 2, Draft 1 (Oct 30)	5%
Peer Edit (Nov 6)	3%
Skeleton-Link Essay 2, Draft 2 (Nov 13)	15%
Final Draft (Nov 27)	20%
Revision Statement (Nov 27)	2%
Final Exam (Dec 8 12:30pm)	20%

NOTE: Find a description of these assignments in Canvas >> Supplementals >> “Assignments – Description”

- 1) Due dates:
 - a) Reading Notes are due each Thursday by 1:30pm
 - b) Essay assignments are due on Sunday 11:59pm.
- 2) Reading Notes: The lowest two scores will be dropped from the course grade.
- 3) Essays
 - a) The Essays comprise six separate assignments: S-L Essay 1, S-L Essay 2 Draft 1, Peer Edit, S-L Essay 2 Draft 2, Final Draft, and Revision Statement.
 - b) You must complete all six of these assignments in order to receive credit for any of them. If you fail to submit any of the six Essay assignments, you will receive a 0 on all of the parts (which will result in a failing grade in the course).
- 4) Final exam: Will be comprehensive, based on both reading and lecture materials. The format will build off of the skills we build in the Reading Notes and the Essays.

Grading: Numbered scores correspond to letter grades as follows: Numbers in the 90s are As, the 80s are Bs, the 70s are Cs, the 60s are Ds, and below 60 is an F. Plusses and minuses work as follows: 80-82 = B-; 83-86 = B; 87-89 = B+. Any decimal below .5 gets rounded down, any decimal of .5 or above gets rounded up. So 86.4 becomes 86, which is a B; 86.5 becomes 87, which is a B+.

For a description of the what difference letter grades mean, see <http://history.uoregon.edu/undergraduate/>

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance: You are expected to attend each class, to have finished the reading assignment before class, and to participate in discussion.

2. Respect: Mutual respect and courtesy are necessary for the course to be a success.
 - a) I hope that you will question me, the reading, and each other, as doing so is essential to the learning process. We should do so in an environment that is safe and respectful of our varied opinions. Let's challenge each other based on ideas, analysis, and evidence, and not based on insults or personal attacks.
 - b) All enrolled students are warmly welcome in this course, regardless of gender, ethnicity, immigration status, national origin, religion, class, race, disability, etc.
 - c) No side conversations, listening to music, or reading outside materials in class.
 - d) Cell phones: Turn off your cell phones before class starts; Professor Zahler and the GE have the right to answer any in-class calls or messages that you receive.
3. Computers: Do *not* use a computer during class time.
 - a) Computers are wonderful, powerful machines. Unfortunately, they are also very distracting and can reduce our ability to think and learn. Numerous studies have found that, during class, students spend most of the time using the computer for activities unrelated to the class, which distracts them and nearby students.
 - a. Articles on the subject: [Article 1](#); [Article 2](#); [Article 3](#)
 - b) Numerous studies have also found that students learn more when they take notes using pen and paper than when they use a computer.
 - a. Articles on the subject: [Article 1](#); [Article 2](#); [Article 3](#)
 - c) I will make exceptions to this policy for students that have specific, documented need to use a computer in class. In this circumstance, you should sit at the back of the class in order to distract fewer other students.
4. Late assignments:

You will lose points on late assignments at a rate of 10pts/24-hours. You can get an extension if you have a legitimate reason (e.g. health problems, a death in the family, imprisonment, alien abduction, etc.). Contact your professor or GE to request an extension. Snowboarding on Mt. Bachelor is not a legitimate reason.
5. You may not sell class notes to other students. You may not use Canvas for commercial purposes or to advertise items for sale. Use of services that sell course notes is prohibited because they contradict the educational purpose of this course.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Our class will communicate through our Canvas site. Announcements and emails are archived there and automatically forwarded to your UO email, and can even reach you by text. Check and adjust your settings under Account > Notifications.

Your GE and professor will host scheduled “live” office hours through Zoom each week, and you can also contact us directly to request a meeting. Get in touch with us to ask about assignments, course content, something in the reading or lecture you want to discuss further, or just to let us know how you're doing.

Using Canvas

Log into canvas.uoregon.edu using your DuckID to access our class. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page:

<https://service.uoregon.edu/TDClient/2030/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=38635>

Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone or live chat: 541-346-4357 | livehelp.uoregon.edu

If you face Internet access challenges: companies are offering free access during this challenging time. To learn more about options visit Information Services' web page on going remote:

<https://service.uoregon.edu/TDClient/2030/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=101263>

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.”

ACADEMIC INTREGRITY:

Any work you submit must be your own and must be produced exclusively for this class – plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All ideas from other sources must be properly cited. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Be aware that consequences for plagiarism or cheating can include an F in the course, suspension, or expulsion. For further information on this subject, as well as guidelines for proper citation, see the web sites:

Student Conduct Code for Academic Misconduct:

<https://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct>

Student Conduct Code and Procedures:

<https://dos.uoregon.edu/code-procedures>

Plagiarism Guide for Students:

<http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, we will learn not only a body of historical information but also will refine a set of intellectual skills that apply to any professional career path you will pursue. In this course you can expect to learn:

- Major religious and political trends in Latin America from the fifteenth through the nineteenth centuries
- How to use religion and religious institutions as analytical lenses to gain deeper understanding of this course's particular period and, more broadly, the interaction of political, economic, cultural, and social forces.
- How the discipline of history uses primary and secondary sources, and works with inconsistent or contradictory evidence.
- How to discuss socially-sensitive topics such as religion, race, gender, sex, and violence in a respectful manner that promotes learning and inquiry.

- How to participate in a discourse with dissenting opinions in a manner that is respectful and intellectually productive, whether those opinions come from historical actors, scholars, or fellow classmates.
- How to use critical questions and evidence-based analysis to investigate complex situations.
- Improved communication skills: how to write a clear essay with an evidence-based argument and (hopefully) how to answer/ask questions in public.

SCHEDULE

Reading Codes:

Readings in the syllabus will be marked as follows:

“CP” for Course Packet

“RLA” for *Religion in Latin America*

Complete readings before the class for which they are assigned, in the order listed.

W1: Introduction

Sept 27: Intro: (pre-contact Iberia)

Sept 29:

- Find reading on Canvas (See “W1 Reading” folder)
 - Lyman Johnson, *The Faces of Honor* (pp1-44)

W2: Pre-Contact

Oct 4: Iberia

- Schwaller: pp1-22 (Introduction and first half of Ch 1)
- CP: Siete Partidas, excerpts
 - Note: The *Siete Partidas* is a medieval Castilian law code that remained in force throughout the Hispanic world through the nineteenth-century.

Oct 6: Americas

- Schwaller: pp22-32 (second half of Ch 1)
- RLA: Ch 1

❖ Map Quiz

W3: Contact and Conquest

Oct 11:

- Schwaller, Ch 2-3 (38pp)

Oct 13:

- RLA: Ch 2
- RLA: Doc 27 (“Motolinía Attacks Las Casas”)
 - [Note Las Casas was the author of Ch 2 Docs 10, 11, 12]
- CP: CL: 3, 4

❖ Oct 16: Skeleton-Link Essay 1

W4: Establishing the Colonial Church

Oct 18

- Schwaller: Ch 4 (25pp)
- RLA: Doc 31 (pp60-63)
- CP: DLA 8

Oct 20: No class (in Oxford)

- ❖ Watch lecture “*Mission Background*”
- ❖ Watch *The Mission* one evening this week
- ❖ Read: article from *Latin America in the Movies*
- ❖ May 5: Review of *The Mission* due

W5: Women and the Colonial Church

Oct 25

- RLA: Ch 5
- CP: DLA Ch 10
- CP: CL Ch 7

Oct 27:

- CP: CL 10, 13
- CP: DLA Ch 18

- ❖ Oct 30: Skeleton-Link Essay 2, Draft 1

W6: The Mature Colonial Order and Independence

Nov 1

- Schwaller: Ch 5
- RLA: Ch 6

Nov 3

- Schwaller: Ch 6

- ❖ Nov 6: Peer edits

W7: Early Republic

Nov 8

- Schwaller: Ch 7

Nov 10

- RLA: Doc 65-66
- RLA: Ch10
- CP: José María Luis Mora, On Ecclesiastical Wealth (1831) (14pp)

- ❖ Nov 13: Skeleton-Link 2, Draft 2

W8: Conservative Republicans

Nov 15:

- CP: Douglas Sullivan-Gonzalez, *Piety, Power, and Politics*, Chapters 4-5

Nov 17:

- CP: Peter Henderson: *Gabriel García Moreno*, Chapter 6

W9: Neo-Colonial Order

Nov 22

- Schwaller: Ch 8

Nov 24: Thanksgiving (no class)

❖ Nov 27: Final Draft + Revision Statement

W10: Neo-Colonial

Nov 29

- CP: *DLA* v2, Chapter 15 (Civilize Cayapa Indians)
- RLA: Doc 76, 77

Dec 1: Wrap up and Review

Final Exam: Thursday December 8, 12:30pm – 2:30pm