



Course Syllabus: Colonial Latin American History
Prothro Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
HIST 3833/5833 Section 101
Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Office hours: Mon, Wed, Friday: 11:00am – 12:00p; Tues, Thurs. 10:00am-11:00am or by appointment

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Course Description

This course investigates the various cultures and ethnicities during the colonial period in Latin America. The discovery, conquest, and settlement of Ibero-America are covered in detail as are the roles of the church, encomienda, and military. The course concludes with a discussion of the impact of the reforms of Charles the Third as they affected Latin America and initiated the independence movements

Textbook & Instructional Materials

- Burkholder, Mark A. and Lyman L Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, 8th edition, Oxford University Press
- Andrien, Kenneth J. and Cameron D. Jones, eds.. *The Human Tradition in Colonial Latin America*, 3rd edition, Bloomsbury Academic

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

AI use prohibited. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Claude, Google Gemini, and Microsoft Copilot) is

prohibited for all work submitted in this course unless I have authorized it for a specific assignment in writing. Submitting AI-generated content as your own work will be treated as a violation of academic integrity. If you are unsure whether a tool you want to use falls under this policy, ask me before using it. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade – Your grade will be determined out of a possible 1000 total available points that you can accumulate through the following assignments: participation in class discussion (300 points, 12 points per class), presentations (200 points), writing assignments (500 points).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Participation	300
Topic Proposal	50
Annotated Bibliography	50
Creative Writing Assignment 1	50
Creative Writing Assignment 2	50
Conference Paper Rough Draft	100
Conference Paper Final Draft	100
Conference Presentation	100
Book Review	100
Book Presentation	100
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	900
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Your homework falls into a couple of categories. There will be daily reading assignments. There are no reading quizzes but come to class prepared to discuss the reading, if you are unprepared it might effect your participation grade. There are assignments that we will discuss in class (your creative writing papers, the book review, and conference presentation). These assignments are due at the start of class 12:30pm. Finally there are take home assignments, all the different parts of your Conference Paper. These are all due Thursday at midnight.

Projects Required

All the different parts of your conference paper add up to being 500 points or 50 percent of your grade. Check D2L for the requirments for each part of the assignment, but in the end you are to create a 5-6 page paper that you will present in front of the class. You are welcome to choose any topic you want for your paper as long as it relates to Colonial Latin America. But I will say this, a good conference paper is pretty focused, they often look at a person, event, or place and explain how what happens there is symbolic of larger trends in Latin America. Your job will be to find such an person, event, or place and then place it in context.

Late Work

Assignments that you turn in via D2L can be late, provided you ask me for an extension before hand. Assignments that are presented in class, conference presentation, participation, etc. cannot be late since class discussion is part of the project. However, there may be an opportunity to turn in something for partial credit, just reach out to me.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected

to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Northwestern State University (NSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to NSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Northwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Northwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful

possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Below are a list of the major assignments due for the course. If there is a discrepancy between the dates below and the dates in D2L, let me know but default to the dates in D2L.

Week or Module	Reading Guide	Due Date
Week 1 8/24 to 8/29	No Reading	No assignment due
Week 2 8/31 to 9/5	Chapter 1 "America, Iberia, and Africa Before the Conquest"	No assignment due
Week 3 9/7 to 9/12	Chapter 2 "Age of Conquest"	No assignment due
Week 4 9/14 to 9/19	Chapter 3 "Ruling New World Empires" Part One <i>The Human Tradition</i>	Native Civilization due 9/17
Week 5 9/21 to 9/26	Chapter 4 "Population and Labor"	Topic Proposal 9/24
Week 6 9/28 to 10/3	Chapter 5 "Production, Exchange and Defense"	No assignment due
Week 7 10/5 to 10/10	Chapter 6 "Social Economy"	No assignment due
Week 8 10/12 to 10/17	Chapter 7 "The Family and Society" Part Two <i>The Human Tradition</i>	Annotated Bibliography 10/15
Week 9 10/19 to 10/24	Chapter 8 "Living in an Empire"	No assignment due
Week 10 10/26 to 10/31	Chapter 9 "Imperial Expansion"	Book Report 10/29
Week 11 11/2 to 11/7	Chapter 10 "The Era of Caroline Reform"	Las Casas v. Sepulveda Debate 11/5
Week 12 11/9 to 11/14	Chapter 11 "Crisis and Political Revolution"	Conference Paper Rough Draft due 11/12
Week 13 11/16 to 11/21	Chapter 12 "From Empire to Independence" Part Three <i>The Human Tradition</i>	No assignment due
Week 14 11/30 to 12/5	Conference Presentations, no reading	Conference Paper Final Draft 12/1

Note: Tables are already set up for compliance. If you wish to add another table, make sure to do the correct compliance setup for tables which you can find in the [How To – Word Doc ADA Compliance PDF](#).