

Course Description

LAH2021 | Latin American History I | 3.00 credits

This course covers the history of Latin America, from the pre-Columbian civilizations of the region, to the Wars of Independence. Students will learn about the development of the political, social, economic and cultural structures of colonial Latin America to 1825.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that contributed to Spain and Portugal rise to power during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries by:

1. Examining the cultural, social and political legacy of the Reconquista that was introduced into the Americas during the conquest and colonization of the new world
2. Outlining the motives behind Spain and Portugal participation in the age of exploration
3. Describing the colonial empire established by the Iberian kingdoms
4. Demonstrating the economic importance of the Americas during the colonial period
5. Describing the great wealth accrued by Spain and Portugal during the age of conquest

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the ancient cultures of the Americas during the age of conquest and colonization by:

1. Identifying the varied indigenous peoples of the region, and examining their distinctive civilizations
2. Comparing and contrasting their cultural, religious, social, economic and political structures
3. Describing the Spanish conquest and subjugation of the native peoples of Latin America
4. Discussing the impact of colonization on the indigenous peoples and civilizations of the Americas
5. Analyzing the significance of the cultural, racial, and biological exchanges that resulted in the Columbian exchange
6. Discussing the rivalry among European nations for the wealth accrued from the Americas

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the colonial societies established by Spain and Portugal in the Americas during the periods of conquest and colonization by:

1. Examining the role of the church and military in the social, economic and political development of the region during the colonial period
2. Describing the tribute and labor systems established in the Americas during the colonial period, and discussing the role they played in the economic development of Latin America
3. Discussing the relationship between race and social class, and the role they played in the development of the social class and caste systems that emerged in Latin America
4. Comparing and contrasting the social, cultural, economic and political structures established by Spain and Portugal in their colonies in the Americas
5. Examining piracy and smuggling and its effect on Spanish imperial policy

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that contributed to the struggle for independence in Latin America, and the newly independent nations that emerged by:

1. Outlining Spain's decline as a European power during the 18th and 19th centuries
2. Explaining how Spain and Portugal's colonial policies contributed to the development of a national identity and caused a revolutionary crisis
3. Discussing how Napoleon's invasion of Spain and Portugal impacted their colonial possessions by politicizing the colonial elite population
4. Discussing how enlightenment ideas, and the American, Haitian, and French revolutions influenced the revolutionary factions that were emerging in Latin America during the 18th and 19th centuries
5. Comparing and contrasting the independence movements of the various regions of the Spanish empire in Latin America, and Brazil's transition to independence

6. Examining the social, economic and political structures that were established in the newly independent nations of Latin America
7. Describing the economic and political problems faced by the newly independent nations of Latin America

General Education Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information