

Course Code: HIS 140 (IAI S2 920N)

Course Title: History of Latin America

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 54.9996

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 4-0-4

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 4

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 4

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Origins and development of major geographic, social, political, and religious forces which have contributed to the formation of major institutions in Latin America from the era of Teotihuacan and the Olmec, Maya, Inca, and Aztec to the development of contemporary Latin American nations.

General Course Objectives

To gain an understanding and appreciation of the political, economic, social, and cultural institutions of Latin American nations.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Students take a midterm and a final exam; both are mixed objective-essay exams. Students are required to complete a reading and writing assignment which is usually a 2,000 word research paper which makes use of both primary and secondary sources.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Penguin History of Latin America, Author: Williamson. 9780141034751

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Latin American Geography and Cultural Areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify major geographical areas and describe climate, land forms, soils, vegetation, and resources of each area. 2. Identify major culture areas and explain the impact of environmental conditions on each region. 	4	0	0
Mesoamerica and Early Civilizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compare and contrast the development of settled communities and the socioeconomic impact of village economies. 2. Identify the rise of the Olmec and Tlatilco during the Formative Period and contrast with later cultures. 3. Discuss the development of Mayan civilization and hypotheses concerning its disappearance. 	5	0	0
Pre-Columbian Caribbean, Central America, and the Northern Andes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the characteristics of monumental stone sculpture and public and ceremonial architecture; determine their significance. 2. Illustrate the nature of religious concepts and their symbolic expression in pre-Columbian societies. 	5	0	0
Toltec, Aztec, and Inca Civilizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpret the development and characteristics of the Toltec cultures of the Classic period. 2. Examine the development of the Aztec civilization, describe its significant achievements, and analyze the cultural background of the Aztec-Spanish encounter. 3. Describe the development of cultural complexity in Lower Central America, the Caribbean, and the Northern Andes; contrast with other areas, including the role of the environment. 	9	0	0
European Exploration and Imperialism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe problems confronting European powers at the time of exploration, conquest, and colonization; contrast with the cultural features of the New World population. 2. Summarize the relationship between conditions in Europe and the Europeans' treatment of subject people. 	6	0	0
Conquest and Colonization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine the European conquest of Central and South America. 2. Contrast the political organization and religious beliefs of the European and New World cultures at the time of contact and determine the basis for misunderstandings. 3. Discuss the features of colonization governments and their social, religious, and economic impact on their subject people. 4. Discuss the changes that have occurred as a result of the Columbian Exchange. 	6	0	0
Revolutions and Independence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the nature of resistance and revolution against colonial rule. 	5	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Latin America in the 20th Century	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconstruct the development of post-colonial political regimes in Latin American countries; assess their contributions and their limitations. 2. Discuss relations of the United States with Latin American countries including the Monroe and New Monroe Doctrines, the building of the Panama Canal, and other imperialistic actions. 3. Contrast types of governments and philosophies among Latin American countries. 4. Examine cultural history in Latin America. Identify the success and effects of educational and other social reforms. 5. Analyze the role of religion in contemporary Latin America. 6. Discuss changes and permanence in art and literature and their relation to politics. 7. Determine the influence of traditional society in contemporary Latin America and its potential for survival. 8. Discuss the relations of Latin American governments with those of other countries and the United Nations. 	20	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
60	0	0