

Dr. Barbara Ganson
Office hours:
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LAH 4930
Spring 2005
Wednesdays 7:10-10:00 pm

Explorations in Ethnohistory: The Indian in Latin America

In this course, we will analyze the processes by which Europeans came to dominate the indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the extent to which Amerindians shaped the encounter and maintained their own cultural integrity identity, and independence. We will also examine how the interactions between the Indians and the Europeans brought about significant transformations within the two cultures since 1492.

Many of the consequences of the invasion/encounter/discovery were tragic. The depopulation of the Native Americans appears to have been disastrous, as was the rise of economic systems based on forced Indian labor in encomiendas. debt peonage, and slave labor. Much as been written about the negative aspects of this encounter. Yet, without diminishing their importance, one of the central purposes of this course is to uncover the patterns of interactions, resistance, and accommodation that shaped the formation of Latin American societies.

Course Requirements:

Students will write two book reviews on a book having to do with the ethnohistory of the Americas. Reviews will be three to four pages in length, typed, double-spaced and due at the beginning of class. Students will write one longer essay of five to eight pages in length on a topic having to do with ethnohistory related to the weekly readings which will be discussed in class. The final grade will be made up of class participation and attendance (10), reviews (20 percent each) and the longer essay (50, including 10 for its presentation.) If you are absent for more than one week, your grade will be reduced by one letter grade for each additional absence, unless special arrangements have been made with the professor.

Required Readings:

Carmack Robert M, Janine Gasco, and Gary Gossen, *The Legacy of Mesoamerica: History and Culture of a Native American Civilization.*

Ganson, Barbara. *The Guarani Under Spanish Rule in the Rio de la Plata*, (on reserve at the Davie Library).

Kicza, John, ed.. *The Indian in Latin American History* (selected essays)

Schwartz, Stuart, ed. *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua View of the Conquest of Mexico.*

Course Schedule:

January 12. Introduction. What is ethnohistory?

January 19. How do anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians approach the past?

Assigned Reading: Carmack, Chapters 1-3.

January 26. Structures of Pre-Columbian Societies and the Demographic Consequences of the Conquest. How have Europeans depicted Amerindians and their societies? What tactics did they use to subjugate the Amerindians?

Assigned Reading: Carmack, Chapter 4, Schwartz, introduction

Feb. 2. How have Amerindians perceived Europeans? What was the nature of the encounter in Brazil? Assigned Reading: Schwartz, The Documents, Presentations, Encounter, The March Inland. Presentation: How Tasty was my Little Frenchman. First Book Review Due

Feb. 9. Library assignment. Work on projects. Professor will be lecturing at a special meeting.

Feb. 16. How did the conquest of Mexico differ from that in Peru and other parts of Latin America? Labor systems: Indian slavery, encomienda, repartimiento, mita, and debt peonage.

Assigned Reading: Schwartz, Tenochtitlan, Things Fall Apart, The Siege and Fall of Tenochtitlan, Stem essay in Kicza, Charney essay in Kicza.

Feb. 23. The Spiritual Conquest. Roles of Missions and Missionaries. Spiritual Confrontations and Accommodations of Amerindians. Presentation: Compare and contrast The Black Robe with The Mission.

Assigned Reading: Ganson, The Guarani under Spanish Rule in the Rio de la Plata. Chapter 2. (on reserve Davie library)

March 2. Postconquest Societies: Religious Adaptation, Politics, and Adaptation on the Frontier. Assigned reading: Pagden essay in Kicza, Fan-is on the Maya in Kicza. Presentation: The Black Robe Second Book Review Due.

March 7-13 Spring Break

March 16. Women and Gender in Native American Postconquest Societies. Native Rebellions. Presentation: The Mission.

Assigned Reading: Ganson, Chapter 3, Carmack, Chapter 9.

March 23. Library Assignment. Professor will be giving a paper at the annual meeting of

the Southwestern Historical Association.

March 30. The Continuing Struggle for Survival: Amerindians and the emergence of new nation states. Native Stereotypes in Film

Assigned Reading: Carmack, Chapter 6.

April 6. Endangered Peoples: What issues do Amerindians face today in Latin America?

Assigned Reading: Carmack, Chapter 7.

April 13. Presentations

April 20. Presentations. Papers Due

April 27. Reading Day