

Department of Humanities
Dr. Christopher B. Davis
Email: cdavis@sulross.edu
Phone: 830.703.4845
Office: Del Rio, F215
Summer Availability:
Please email, and I will typically
respond within 24 hours.



Latin America

Summer I, 2019
Online

Course Description

This short semester course will focus on Latin America – specifically the colonial era. This period is key to understanding Latin America as a whole. We will examine the native cultures just before colonization, reasons for colonization, and how the colonial world played out.

Course Style

Activities will focus on reading, writing, and short teaching segments.

Importance of Communication

In a short semester it is vital that you stay in touch – especially if you run into any roadblocks. Our schedule and assignments are necessarily compressed, so falling behind is not an option. Contact me immediately if you hit a point of struggle.

It is vital that students stay in communication with me as the course progresses. Most struggles students have in college courses can be resolved with simple conversations between student and teacher. If there are difficulties with concepts or assignments, it is not a cause for embarrassment or panic but an opportunity to improve skills and expand knowledge. Just get in touch. We will work through the issue.

I try to make communication as easy as possible and keep regular hours when I am available to talk. We can meet in person, talk on the phone, or video chat. Just contact me via email to set up a time.

Resources

This course does not use a specific textbook. Resources will be provided via Blackboard, so please see Resources tab.

All resources provided are for your use in this class only. That is why they are being provided via a password protected system like Blackboard. Do not illegally reproduce or distribute them.

Syllabus

Please keep your syllabus accessible for the entire semester. It will serve as a guide to not only class assignments but also to understand class expectations. If any revisions have to be made to the class schedule during the semester, I will let you know via a class announcement. Students are responsible for knowledge of all class announcements.

Participation

As a short semester online class, it is important for students to maintain focus on completing assignments. It is best to check your SRSU email and Blackboard daily to stay current.

Grading

Weekly Responses (5)	200 points
Teach-a-Topic (2)	100 points
Semester Project	200 points

Your grade will be the number of points you receive on the items listed above divided by the total number of points possible. For example, if you receive 450 points among the assignments that is 450 divided by 500 equals 0.9 or 90%. That is the minimum needed for an A in the class.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments are those turned in after the due date and time on Blackboard. Do not wait until moments before an assignment is due to turn it in since an upload might take a few minutes and your clock might differ from that of the Blackboard system. Due to scheduling there is not guarantee that late assignments will be accepted.

Note: There are no extra point opportunities in this course. It is best to keep up with your scores on assignments to know how you are doing.

Weekly Responses

This class will have five weekly responses. The goal in each is to absorb the information you have explored during the week and develop a comprehensive exploration that is unique to you. This is not a book report where you just restate the information provided. The goal is to show what you have learned. How do the sources, as a group, help you understand the topic well? What overarching themes do you take away from the sources? What specific information helped you understand those themes in a new way? Do you see areas that you lack understanding and need to research further? More information will be provided on these assignments.

Teach-a-Topic

The goal of a teach-a-topic assignment is for you to explore a topic of your choosing and then help other students understand it well. The process is to select a topic that you want to know more about, research the topic from multiple sources, and then produce a video explaining the topic to your fellow students. More information will be provided on these assignments.

Semester Project

The semester project will give you the opportunity to explore a specific topic of interest using academic sources. The goal will be to communicate the overall story of the topic as well as the nature of the historical work being done. The idea is to give other graduate students what they need to understand the topic in a complex way. 1) What is the overall story? 2) Describe the history done on the topic. Is it an active area? What sources do historians use? Etc. More information will be provided on the semester project.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 1) Develop the ability to understand history rather than simply memorize.
- 2) Communicate causes and effects clearly.
- 3) Have the ability to explain the “why” of history instead of just the “who, what, when, and where.”
- 4) Improve short-form writing skills in content, organization, style, and grammar.
- 5) Develop skills in assessing non-textbook material for how it connects to the course content.

ADA Statement

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Rio Grande College-Sul Ross State University, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Class Weeks

Week 1

May 29 – June 4

- **Latin America Just Before Colonization**

Week 2

June 5 – June 11

- **Why Colonize Another Continent?**
 - **Teach-a-Topic #1 due – June 11th**

Week 3

June 12 – June 18

- **Colonial Structure**

Week 4

June 19 – June 25

- **Interactions**
 - **Teach-a-topic #2 due – June 25th**

Week 5

June 26 – July 1

- **Colonial Legacy**
 - **Semester Project Due – July 1st at noon**