

Latin American Studies

Mr. Alan Vitale

Classroom: MC 463

Schedule: A Day: 10:45-12:15 am

Phone: Text message only:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary survey of Latin American history, culture, economics, politics, and social relations. In particular, we will focus on the legacies of colonization and imperialism in the region in order to more clearly understand the current state of Latino-American culture, politics and economics.



TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

CMS has not adopted an official textbook for Latin American Studies. We will use a variety of materials both in class and on the class website (vitalehistory.com). You ARE NOT required to purchase any materials but may be asked to contribute to any field trip or participate in activities

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Describe the unique cultural historical and social traditions of Latin America
- B. Identify the principal events, problems, and concerns faced by Latin Americans today within a cultural and historical context
- C. Evaluate the historical role of race, class, and gender in the creation of Latin American societies
- D. Analyze the impact of colonialism on the construction of unique Latin American societies, and on the region's indigenous peoples
- E. Interpret the political, cultural, and environmental developments that have contributed to interrelations among current Latin American communities and nations

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Materials: Students are required to have a (1 inch), **3-ring binder** for this class. This means you don't cram your math and English assignments into your LAS notebook. To keep you honest, there will be spot notebook checks. This means you shouldn't leave it under your desk when the bell rings and you race for the door. If I have to hand deliver it to you in another class, its going to be awkward, I promise!!!

GRADING

Formal – 70% There will be lots of formal grades every 9 weeks. Expect unannounced quizzes on required readings. Assignments can be treated as a test grade depending on their complexity.

Informal – 30% If formal grades = 70%, that probably means informal grades count for 30%. Informal includes homework, classwork, and student involvement. Class participation is assessed through student comments, helpfulness, behavior, preparation, on-task behavior and how much you have upset the teacher that day.

The grading scale is as follows:

90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 59 or Lower F

CELL PHONE POLICY

Unless you've talked to me beforehand, don't pull out a cell phone in class. This is a **BIG DEAL**. It is especially true during tests or quizzes. While I may allow a phone on rare occasion, camera/texting/calls are strictly forbidden. Please respect this rule. Common sense goes a long way, so see me beforehand if you are expecting a parental call. There was a reason George Washington didn't have a cell phone.

OTHER POLICES

Lecture and Discussion: Students will be responsible for taking notes during class discussion. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions so come prepared to share what you know.

Quizzes: Quizzes can be given w/ prior notice or not. Some quizzes may not be counted at the teacher's discretion.

Final Exam: At the completion of the course, all CMS students will take a state issued final exam (NCFE) given in June of 2018. The exam will consist of multiple choice with reading prompts. You will not be asked to write a novel about American History but if you paid attention in class, you could.

Videos and DVD's: Permission below will be required to take full advantage of videos, including "Movie Nights" and special showings. If you don't want to sit by yourself while the rest of the class is enjoying a movie excerpt, your parent can request you to finish an alternative assignment instead. Your guardian's signature below signifies your consent to classroom viewing of historically related content. Some possible selections include, but are not limited to:

"The Century" with Peter Jennings. ABC News "The Mission"
National Geographic's "Columbian Exchange", various History Channel documentaries and others.

Academic Honesty: All work must be your own. Any time you use another's words, answers or ideas, you must give proper credit to that person by citing their work. I assume you are honest so resist the urge to copy a friend's answer.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Classes meet daily on an A/B Day schedule and follow the CMS schedule. Please arrive on time. A student more than 40 minutes late is marked absent. If a student misses more than 10 classes/academic year, he/she cannot pass under North Carolina law without remediation. Students who miss class are most likely to struggle, just like the slowest antelopes trailing the herd are most likely to be eaten. Going on vacation or waking up late are not excused absences unless you have an amazing relationship with Dr. Lockhart.

By signing, student and parent agree to abide by the expectations set forth above.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date _____