



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Sydney Rice
Course Title & #:	HIST 131 – Modern Latin American History	Email:	Sydney.rice@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11422	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	2788
Class Dates:	8/11/25 – 10/4/2025	Office Hours:	MTWR - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm by email or Pronto. You can also contact me at other times.
Class Days:	Asynchronous	How to Contact #:	Contact me through email or through Pronto (in Canvas)
Class Times:	Asynchronous	Emergency Contact:	BSS Admin Assistant Elvia Camillo 760-355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous (Canvas)

Course Description

This course compares the nations and cultures of Latin America from the Early National Period to the present by studying the economic, social, political, and cultural evolution of the different regions, including Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The region's changing interactions with and place in the international community and various other world factors are also explored. Emphasis is placed on the influence of various ethnic groups in the development of the different cultures of the region. (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Describe the causes and/or impacts of a historical event
2. Identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film.
3. Explain and analyze the key information contained in a primary source document.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the cultural and geographic conditions of the new nations after the Independence era in continental Latin America.
2. Discuss the political crisis, the social class struggle, and the economic collapse in Latin America in the post-independence period of the 1820's to 1850's.
3. Explain the effects of political liberalism in the 1850's to 1880's in Latin America as well as the conditions of the international economy during the era of Imperialism.
4. Discuss the industrialization period in Latin America between 1880's and 1900's, as well as, the role of international companies, and their ties with modernized elites, oligarchies or integrating dictatorships.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the new rural and urban working classes, an intellectually strong middle class, and the co-optative democracies that emerge to deal with the demands of the world economy during 1900's and 1930's.
6. Explain the justification for the evolution of populism in Latin America and its role in balancing the interests of the new entrepreneurial class and the working class while protecting the national economies during the 1930's to the 1960's.
7. Discuss how the decline of populism exacerbated the class conflict and the national inequities prompting massive movements and the advent of the era of military juntas in the 1960's to the 1980's.
8. Compare the revolutionary movements in El Salvador and Nicaragua as well as other Central and South American countries and the role of the United States, and in the context of the Cold War.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the return of democracy in Latin America after the 1980's, as well as the role of new technocratic elites and their neo-liberalistic policies in the face of a global economy.
10. Discuss the future of the Americas in the 21st century.
11. Present a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events of modern Latin American history; articulate the roles played by various political and social groups; be able to describe some of the recurring themes during this period of Latin American history.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required:

- **Title:** *New History of Modern Latin America*. 3rd edition
- **Authors:** Clayton, Lawrence A.
- **Publisher:** University of California Press.
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0520289024.

NOTE: There is no cost for the book. It is available for free through the IVC Library. To access the book, you must sign in to the IVC Library using your IVC username and password.



READING: This is a reading intensive course. Please be prepared to spend time reading each week. If you do not read the chapters, you will not be prepared for the quizzes and assessments.

CHECK INS: These are mini-assessments after each chapter. You have three (3) times to take each check-in and you may use your notes to help you. Check-ins are not timed.

DISCUSSIONS (Learning Commentaries): Over the course, you will participate in a discussion about topics in presented in the module. For each discussion, you must make one (1) original post of at least 350 words and two (2) posts to other students of at least 150 words each. Posts should demonstrate your engagement with the material and must go beyond "I agree with you."

ASSESSMENTS: You will periodically take an assessment covering the units from the week's module. Assessments can only be taken once and are timed.

FINAL PROJECT: At the end of the term, you will submit a final project. Instructions for the project will be given throughout the class.

OTHER: In addition to reading, you will engage in learning in other ways as well including:

Watching and responding to videos;

Engaging in lectures;

Examining primary documents;

Creating graphic organizers;

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

ASSIGNMENT	TOTAL PERCENTAGE
Discussions (Learning Commentaries) and Reflections	25%
Assignments	30%
Prepare for Reading/Check Ins	15%
Assessments/Papers	15%
Final Project	15%
TOTAL	100%

A = 90 – 100% (passing grade)

B = 80 – 89% (passing grade)

C = 70 – 79% (passing grade)

D = 60 -69% (non-passing grade)

F = 59% and below (non-passing grade)



Anything submitted after the deadline will receive a deduction.

Discussions, Assessments/Papers, and projects are due by the deadline and **will not be accepted late.**

Attendance Policy

Any student who does not complete the FIRST DAY ATTENDANCE VERIFICATION will be dropped.

This is a fully online class. Regular participation is required. Regular participation includes:

- Participation in discussions;
- Completion of assignments;
- Submission of papers and projects;
- Completion of assessments.

In order for you to remain in the class, you must submit some work each week. If you do not submit work for a week or send me an email, you will be dropped from the class. If there is an emergency, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make arrangements. However, if you miss a week, and I don't hear from you, you will be dropped.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

AI includes the use of the following and is NOT allowed without permission from your teacher:

- ChatGPT
- Grammarly
- Grammarly Pro
- You.com
- Microsoft Co-Pilot
- Any program in which you do not do the original writing.

Your work will regularly be run through TurnItIn, IVC's Plagiarism checker. **If your paper comes back as written by AI, you will receive a ZERO (0) and be asked to explain to the instructor what happened.** At that point, it what the final grade will be or if you will need to submit a new paper.

Course Policies



When do modules open and close? You have one week to complete each module. Modules open on Sunday morning and close at 11:59 pm the following Tuesday night.

Can I complete work when I want? Yes, you can! However, you must complete each module by the deadline. (Tuesday night at 11:59 pm).

Can I complete my work after the module closes? Yes! You can complete work in a module after the module closes, but you will not receive full points for your work. The only exception is the weekly discussions and final assessments. Weekly discussions and final assessments must be submitted ON or BEFORE the deadline.

Can I retake a test if I get a bad grade? There are two types of assessments for this class: Check Ins and Assessments. You can take a Check In up to three (3) times, so if you don't like your score, you can do the Check In again. However, you can only do an Assessment one (1) time. If you don't like your score, you cannot do the assessment again.

What happens if I have a problem? If something happens, please email me as soon as possible! I will work to help you!

What if I decide I don't want to take the class? If you decide you don't want to take the class any longer, you need to drop the class on Webstar. If you stop doing work, I will drop you from the class (please see above). Not completing a class can affect financial aid.

Participation: Regular participation is required. Participation includes:

- Posting and responding in weekly discussions;
- Completing weekly work on Canvas;
- Submitting your work on time;

What if I can't get my book? The book is available in the IVC Library database for free. If you are having problems navigating the database, contact the library. The staff can show you how to access the book.

Other Course Information

How do I access my assignments?

Always go through **MODULES** to find your assignments. **Do not go to the gradebook.** Sometimes there will be an assignment which is open in the gradebook, but which isn't in the modules. If you do an assignment which is not assigned in the modules, you will not get credit for the assignment.

Can I do something for extra credit? No. I do not give extra credit in this class. There are plenty of opportunities for you to earn enough credit to pass the class.

Can I submit a Google Document? No. You cannot submit a Google doc. While Google is used in high school, it is not used at Imperial Valley College. You must submit a .doc or a .docx document. If you need Microsoft



Office, you can access it through your IVC email in OneDrive. If you need help, make an appointment with EdTech

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

[Provide a tentative overview of the readings, assignments, tests, and/or other activities for the duration of the course. A table format as in the example below may be used for this purpose.]

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 (8/11 - 8/19)	Complete Module 0 - Orientation Complete Module 1 – Introduction to Latin America READ: Chapter 1 Chapter 3 Chapter 4	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Check In Learning Commentary END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
Week 2 (8/17 - 8/26)	Complete Module 2 READ: Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Introduction to Primary Documents	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Activity Check In Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
Week 3 (8/24 - 9/2)	Complete Module 3 READ: Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Chapter 15	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Activity Check In Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
Week 4 (8/31 - 9/9)	Complete Module 4 No reading this week. You will focus on writing a paper and deciding on a topic for your final project.	For this chapter, complete: Submit topic for final project



Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
		Submit Paper #1 Assessment END OF THE WEEK Mid-term Self-Reflection
Week 5 (9/7 - 9/16)	Complete Module 5 READ: Chapter 16 Chapter 17	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Activity Check In END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
Week 6 (9/14 - 9/23)	Complete Module 6 READ: Chapter 19 Chapter 22	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Activity Check In Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
Weeks 7 & 8 (9/21 - 10/04)	Complete Module 7 READ: Chapter 24 Chapter 25 Paper #2 Assessment #2 Submit Final Project	For this chapter, complete: Prepare Read Activity Check In Reflect on History END OF THE WEEK Self-Assessment
	FINAL PROJECT and ALL OTHER WORK DUE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th by 11:59 pm NO EXTENSIONS	

Subject to change without prior notice