

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Latin American Civ/Culture

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** SPA 2560

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will learn about the challenges Latin Americans face today by exploring the lived experiences of people past and present within the context of the convergence of indigenous, African, and European descent. In doing so, students will develop an understanding of the complex and often contradictory interrelationships that exist between diverse cultural traditions and ethnicities and the systems and institutions that frame their lives.

Prerequisite: ENG 1510. J occasionally.

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**General Education Requirements Met**

**JCC**

Cultural Understanding

Global Perspectives

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Develop historical knowledge of the socio-political structures of Latin America.
  2. Locate countries and geographical features of Latin America on a map.
  3. Demonstrate understanding of cultural similarities and differences and how cultural norms shape each person's experience of the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Cultural Understanding]
  4. Demonstrate awareness of systemic global issues and the impact of individual and collective decisions on life around the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Global Perspectives]
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**Topics Covered:**

- **Introduction**
  - Geography of the Spanish-speaking World
  - Origins of Latin America: Pre-Columbian society
  - Latin America Myth or Reality
- **Conquest to Empire**
  - Role of the Inquisition/Moors in the Conquest of the West
  - Roots of the *conquistadors*
  - Early Colonial structures: slavery and hierarchy
  - Role of the Church
  - Feudal transplant in the New World: the *encomienda* system
  - The Caribbean
- **The Rise of the Modern State in Latin America**
  - Wars of Independence/Napoleon
  - New Nationhood
  - Gran Colombia: the enlightenment and Bolivar
  - *Caudillismo*: emergence of the political strongman in LA politics
  - Origins of the world capitalist system
  - The New Middle Class in Politics
- **New presence: the United States on the World Stage**
  - The Monroe Doctrine
  - US interventionism
  - US and Latin American Relations
- **Mexican Revolution**
  - The rupture in the regime
  - The rise of Madero
  - Zapata and the Huerta counter strike
  - From Destruction to Stabilization
- **From World Wars to Communism**
  - Economic debacles: 1930s
  - World Wars and booming Latin America

- Latin American Populism
- Danger in LA Economics: Neo-feudalism
- Cold War and Soviet Presence in Cuba
- Revolutionary Response:
  - Cuban Revolution
  - Missile Crisis
  - Cuba's Impact: Chile, Nicaragua, Bolivia (Case Studies)
- Debt and Dictatorship:
  - IMF and World Bank: LA Debt
  - Military Models for Stability
  - Liberation Theology
  - New Social Movements and Democracy
  - South American Case studies
- Closing the Socialist Route?
  - Latin America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - The Populist (Re)turn
  - Escaping Latin America's Neo-feudal Past?

### Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
 Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:
 

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

**Effective Date:** Fall 2023