

Fall 2018

# The Conquest of Latin America: Ambivalent Encounters and Historical Memory

Daisy V. Domínguez  
*CUNY City College*

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc\\_oers](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_oers)

Part of the [Latin American History Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Domínguez, Daisy V., "The Conquest of Latin America: Ambivalent Encounters and Historical Memory" (2018). *CUNY Academic Works*.

[https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc\\_oers/134](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/cc_oers/134)

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the City College of New York at CUNY Academic Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Open Educational Resources by an authorized administrator of CUNY Academic Works. For more information, please contact [AcademicWorks@cuny.edu](mailto:AcademicWorks@cuny.edu).

**Course Title:** [The Conquest of Latin America: Ambivalent Encounters and Historical Memory](#)

**Course number and section:** FIQWS 10003 HA5

**Instructor:** Prof. Daisy Domínguez

**Time:** M & W 5:00-6:15pm | **Room:** NAC 6/327

**Office hours:** By appointment | **E-mail:** [ddominguez@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:ddominguez@ccny.cuny.edu) | **Phone:** (212) 650-5758

In this course, we will explore the period known as the Conquest of Latin America, beginning with a brief look at the Reconquista (the period when Christian Spanish and Portuguese kingdoms took present day Spain back from the Moors who had controlled the Iberian Peninsula for over 700 years). The coursework will involve a deeper exploration of the colonization of the Caribbean, Mexico, and the Andes. We will close the semester by examining historical memory surrounding this period: how it has been commemorated in public spaces and via popular culture, outside academia. This epoch was brought about by a fascinating mix of encounters between a number of civilizations and worldviews, both in the “Old World” and the “New.” We will read classic textual accounts and maps as well as alternative written or drawn accounts in order to salvage a multitude of perspectives (emanating from various ethnicities and genders) from the historical record. We will also examine audiovisual sources (film and material culture) for an immersive, fun, and hopefully rewarding scholarly experience. Analysis of our readings will be buttressed by a consistent focus on information literacy skills that you can apply to all disciplines and lifelong learning. Our ultimate goal as a class will be to develop our research and critical thinking skills, which, combined with our diverse perspectives, will allow us to produce thoughtful and nuanced readings and analyses of this complex time.

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
- Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
- Analyze culture, globalization, or global cultural diversity, and describe an event or process from more than one point of view.
- Analyze the significance of one or more major movements that have shaped the world's societies.
- Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures or societies.

**Course Requirements:** You are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class and BlackBoard discussions. You are also expected to read assigned material, make a group oral presentation, and complete all written assignments.

### **Appointments & Communication:**

Please e-mail me to arrange an appointment, notify me of an unavoidable absence, or schedule a phone conference. Please feel free to discuss with me any problem or difficulty you might envision encountering in the course. Please also make sure that your Citymail e-mail account is activated

because you will need it in order to access databases from off-campus and request ILLs (interlibrary loans). Please also make sure to monitor the e-mail account listed on your BlackBoard account or provide me with your correct e-mail address.

### **Support Services:**

**New Student Experience Center (NSEC)** (Marshak, Room 053 Phone: 212.650.8290) is a resource for new students which provides individualized academic advisement, career/major exploration events, college survival skills workshops, and more. From their website: "The transition to college can be stressful. There are new rules, new expectations, new responsibilities, and many new people. The NSEC helps to reduce this stress and provide new students with resources, support, and peer community to make this transition a smooth one." <https://www.ccnycuny.edu/nsec>

**Health and Wellness Services** (Marshak, Room J-15 Phone: 212.650.8222) is a comprehensive social service network to help link students to appropriate services on campus (health, counseling, wellness, AccessAbility, gender resources, emergency grants). <https://www.ccnycuny.edu/health-wellness>

The **Food Pantry** (NAC 6/145) supports students challenged with struggles of food insecurity. Their walk-in hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-5pm. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/ccnyfood/>

The **Samuel Rudin Writing Center** (NAC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Plaza) provides writing assistance to individuals and in group settings. They also offer ESL tutoring. Website: <http://www1.ccnycuny.edu/prospective/humanities/writingcenter/>

**AccessAbility Center Tutoring Services** (NAC 1/218 Phone: 212.650.5913 E-mail: [sds@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:sds@ccny.cuny.edu)) staff provide tutoring and workshops for all registered students with learning or physical disabilities. <http://www.ccnycuny.edu/accessability/>

**Disability Policy:** In compliance with CCNY policy and equal access laws, appropriate accommodations are administered by the AccessAbility Center (NAC 1/218). Students who register with AccessAbility and are entitled to specific accommodations must request a letter from AccessAbility to present to the professor that states what their accommodations are. If specific accommodations are required for a test, students must present an "Exam Administration Request Form" from AccessAbility, at least one week prior to the test date in order to receive their accommodations.

**Courtesy Policy:** Please turn off your phones or put them on vibrate while in class. If you need to take a call, please leave the room, but please do not make this a habit.

**Research skills:** This course will help familiarize you with CCNY Libraries, the CUNY library system, and other research resources available to you further afield. We will visit CCNY's Cohen Library for hands-on instruction and you will also develop your research skills throughout the semester. The CCNY Libraries homepage is: <http://library.ccnycuny.edu/>

## Grading:

**20% Participation** This consists of your:

1. prompt attendance (repeated lateness or absences will bring your participation grade down)  
**Attendance Policy:** Four absences will result in a WU, which counts as an F in a GPA calculation. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed and to come to class prepared for the next class.
2. verbal communication in class discussions
3. [cartonera project](#) (see examples [here](#) and [here](#)) that will include 5 creative writing assignments
4. facilitation of discussions on BlackBoard
5. responses to classmates' questions on BlackBoard

**20% Role Play Oral Presentations** - Due: October 22, 24, and 29 in-class

**20% Sourcing a Primary Document Essay** - Due: November 12, 2018 5:00pm

**20% Annotated Bibliography** - Due: November 28, 2018 5:00pm

**20% Researched Critical Analysis Paper** - Due: December 17 11:59pm

## Written Assignments:

**Format:** Please use Chicago citation style. Please refer to the [OWL Chicago Manual of Style website](#) for help with the basics, including how to cite a book or an article. If you need extra help for formats not listed on that website, please refer to the Chicago Manual of Style (the call number for this book at Cohen Library is: Reference Desk PN149 .C54 2017).

**Lateness:** Late written assignments will be penalized by a reduction of at least one full grade point.

**Plagiarism:** Do not plagiarize! You will receive an F.

- See The Writing Center's [Avoiding Plagiarism handout](#).

CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity statement on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source.
- Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source.
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.
- Internet plagiarism, including submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, or "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution."

**BlackBoard:** All written assignments should be uploaded onto BlackBoard as **attachments**.

**ZTC (Zero Textbook Cost) Course:** This is a zero textbook cost course, meaning that you will not have to spend money to complete any readings, which are either available freely online or via the fee-based databases available to you as a City College student. [The course website on the CUNY Academic Commons contains the most up-to-date documents and resources for this course.](#)

## Required Readings:

### Introduction

Week 1: August 27, 2018

- Personal Sheet; Ice Breaker; Syllabus; Assignment of Questions (BlackBoard); Library Access; BlackBoard; What is Historical Thinking?

### Iberian Precedents

August 29, 2018

#### Required reading:

- [Requerimiento](#) [online]
- Seed, Patricia. "The Requirement: A Protocol for Conquest" in *Ceremonies of Possession in Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1690*. University of Cambridge Press, 1995: 69-99. [BlackBoard]

### The Caribbean

Week 2: September 5, 2018 (College closed September 3, 2018)

#### Required reading:

- Mignolo, Walter. "Putting the Americas on the Map: Geography and the Colonization of Space," *Colonial Latin American Review* 1:1 (1992): 25-63. [BlackBoard]
- Zinn, Howard. Chapter 1. "Columbus, The Indians, and Human Progress" in *A People's History of the U.S.* New York: Harper Perennial, 1995: 1-22. [BlackBoard]

Week 3: September 12, 2018 (No classes scheduled September 10)

#### Required reading:

- Columbus, Christopher. "A Letter Concerning Recently Discovered Islands" [BlackBoard]
- Tzvetan Todorov, "Columbus and the Indians," in *The Conquest of America*, 34-50. [BlackBoard]

Week 4: September 17, 2018 (No classes scheduled September 19)

#### Required reading:

- Margarita Zamora, "[If Cahonaboa learns to speak ...': Amerindian Voice in the Discourse of Discovery](#)," *Colonial Latin American Review* 8:2 (1999): 191-205. [Online] For the English

version of the Spanish excerpts of Columbus's Diary which are in Zamora's article, read pages 199-208 of Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus.

September 19, 2018 THERE IS NO CLASS TODAY ... **but Writing Assignment 1 is due uploaded onto BlackBoard by 5:00pm today.**

Week 5: September 24, 2018

### **Las Casas & Valladolid Debate**

- **Required reading:**

- Bartolomeo de Las Casas - In Defense of the Indians [BlackBoard]
- Sepúlveda - The Just Causes of War against Indians [BlackBoard]

September 26, 2018

**Due: Writing Assignment 2 [uploaded onto BlackBoard by the start of class]**


### **Chicago Citation Style Mini-Workshop & Library Class 1**

- **Assignment of roles in The People v. Columbus, et al.**

 *Please note: We will meet in Cohen Library NAC Tech Center Room **STC1**.*


Week 6: October 1, 2018

### **Library Class 2**

 *Please note: We will meet in Cohen Library NAC Tech Center Room **STC1**. Please make sure to go to the Cohen Library Circulation Desk to have your ID card activated before this class.*

October 3, 2018

### **Library Class 3**

 *Please note: We will meet in Cohen Library NAC Tech Center Room **STC1**. Please make sure to go to the Cohen Library Circulation Desk to have your ID card activated before this class.*

Week 7: October 10, 2018 (College closed October 8)

### **First Blacks in the Americas - DSI Archives and Library Visit 1**

**Required reading** (from the *First Blacks in the Americas* website):

- Go to the website: <http://firstblacks.org/en/> and read:
  - all documents under the "Arrival" tab
  - "A century between resistance and adaptation" (under "Resistance" tab).
  - Black women, present in early Española as early as black men (under "Women" tab)

 *Please note: We will meet in the Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library, NAC 2/202.*

Week 8 October 15, 2018

### **First Blacks in the Americas - DSI Archives and Library Visit 2**

**Required reading** (from the *First Blacks in the Americas* website):

- **Please note:** These links lead to digitized versions of primary sources. Please click on and read the translation and commentary tabs.

- [Manuscript 026](#) [Online] (Theme: Around 1530 in Santo Domingo, a female Black slave was burned at the stake accused of poisoning her female mistress)
- [Manuscript 062](#) [Online] (Theme: In 1553, residents of Santo Domingo still remembered how Black maroon leader Sebastián Lemba's head was exhibited in the city's public square)

**Supplementary reading:**

- Guitar, Lynne. "Boiling It Down: Slavery on the First Commercial Sugarcane Ingenios in the Americas (Hispaniola, 1530-45)." *Slaves, Subjects, and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America*, edited by Jane Landers and Barry Robinson, University of New Mexico Press, 2006, pp. 39–63. [BlackBoard] (This is not a mandatory reading.)

 **Please note:** We will meet in the Dominican Studies Institute Archives and Library, NAC 2/202.

**Feminist Readings & Historiography and Historical Fiction**

October 17, 2018

**Handout:** Sourcing a Primary Document Essay

**Required reading:**

- Anne McClintock, "Lay of the Land: Genealogies of Imperialism," in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (1995), 21-31. [BlackBoard]
- Patricia Seed, "On Caribbean Shores: Problems of Writing History of the First Contact," *Radical History Review* (1992) 1992 (53): 5-11. [BlackBoard]

Week 9 & 10: October 22, 24 & 29, 2018

\*\*\*\* **Due: Role Play Oral Presentations: The People v. Columbus, et al.** \*\*\*\*

**The Conquest of Mexico**

**Women of the Mexican Conquest: Malintzin, Tonantzin/Guadalupe, and Sor Juana**

October 31, 2018

Evaluation meetings and screening of "La Otra Conquista / The Other Conquest"

**Required reading:**

- Arenal, Electa and Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel. "Refocusing New Spain and Spanish Colonization: Malinche, Guadalupe, and Sor Juana" in *A Companion to the Literatures of Colonial America* edited by Susan Castillo and Ivy Schweitzer. Blackwell Publishing (2005): 174-193. [BlackBoard]
- Townsend, Camila. *Malintzin's Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006): Introduction. [BlackBoard]

**Supplementary reading:**

- [Nican Mopohua \(Here it is Told\)](#) Circa 1560 Nahuatl/Spanish account of the apparition of the Virgen de Guadalupe to Juan Diego, [the original of which is possibly in the New York Public Library](#). For a discussion on the NYPL document see "[The Nican Mopua and Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe](#)." (This is not a mandatory reading.)

**Week 11:** November 5, 2018

**Malintzin's Choices**

**Required reading:**



- [Candelaria, Cordelia. "La Malinche" in \*The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States\* edited by Cathy Davidson and Linda Wagner-Martin. Oxford University Press \(1995\): online.](#)
- ["Moctezuma Meets Cortés" image](#) [Online]
- Townsend, Camila. *Malintzin's Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006): Chapter 4. [BlackBoard]

November 7, 2018

## The Broken Spears

### Required reading:

- [The True History of the Conquest of New Spain excerpt - Bernal Díaz del Castillo](#) [Online]
- [The Florentine Codex excerpt - Fray Bernardino de Sahagún](#) [Online]
- Read [Florentine Codex Book XII](#) [Online] [[Original Spanish and Nahuatl version](#)]
- Clendinnen, Inga. "'Fierce and Unnatural Cruelty:' Cortés and the Conquest of Mexico," *Representations* 33 (Winter 1991): 65-100. [BlackBoard]

## Week 12: Library Class 4

\*\*\*\*\* **Due: Sourcing a Primary Document Essay 5:00pm** \*\*\*\*\*

- **Handout:** Annotated Bibliography and Researched Critical Analysis Paper

November 12, 2018



*Please note: We will meet in Cohen Library NAC Tech Center Room **STC1**.*

**NYPL Class Visit: Special Collections: Manuscripts and Codices** with Paloma Celis Carbajal, Curator for Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Studies and Thomas Lannon, Curator of Manuscripts

November 14, 2018

**Due: Writing Assignment 3 [uploaded onto BlackBoard by the start of class]**



*Please note: We will meet at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building of the New York Public Library, 476 5th Ave, New York, NY 10018. Enter through the main entrance (with the two lions, Patience and Fortitude). Once your bags are searched, stay in the lobby area (Astor Hall), and wait by the staircase on the left-hand side as you face the building.*

Week 13: **Cartoneras Talk** - Paloma Celis Carbajal, NYPL Curator for Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Studies

November 19, 2018

## The Andes

### The Encounter at Cajamarca

November 21, 2018

### Required reading:

- GALE Virtual Reference Library essays on [Atahualpa](#), [Francisco Pizarro](#), [Inca Garcilaso de la Vega](#), [Guamán Poma de Ayala](#), [Francisco Pizarro Captures the Inca Ruler](#), [The Conquest of the Incas](#)



## Week 14: Native Andean Historian: Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala

November 26, 2018

### Required reading:

- Adorno, Rolena. "Don Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala." In *Guamán Poma de Ayala: The Colonial Art of an Andean Author*. Edited by Rolena Adorno, et al., 32-45. [BlackBoard]
- Guamán Poma de Ayala. *First New Chronicle and Good Government excerpt*. [Online] Read only pages 5-6. [Take a look at the digitized manuscript from the Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark here.](#)
- View his [drawings](#) related to pre-Columbian culture.

## Mestizo Andean Historian: Inca Garcilaso de la Vega

November 28, 2018

\*\*\*\* **Due: Annotated Bibliography** \*\*\*\*


### Required reading:

- ["El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega," in Early Civilizations in the Americas Reference Library, edited by Sonia G. Benson, et al., 41-50.](#) [Online]
- [Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Royal Commentaries](#) Read chapters IX & X only [Online]

## Cartonera Workshop 1

Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:30-1:45pm

This workshop (1 of 2) is not mandatory; it is being held during Club Hours.

 **Please note:** *We will meet in the Cohen Library, NAC 5/337. Once inside Cohen Library, take the elevators to the 5th floor and make a right. NAC 5/337 is at the end of the hall to the right.*

## Historical Memory

### Commemoration, Protest, and Celebration

Week 15: December 3, 2018

**Due: Writing Assignment 4 [uploaded onto BlackBoard by the start of class]**

### Required reading:

- [Columbus Circle](#) [Skim the article for anything relevant to the commemoration of Columbus]
- ["Columbus Memorials: Three of Them Soon to be Presented to This City." New York Times. June 13, 1892.](#)
- ["The Big Shaft in Place: Crowds Watch the Work on the Columbus Statue" New York Times. October 10, 1892.](#)
- [World's Columbian Exposition](#) [Skim the article for anything relevant to the commemoration of Columbus]
- "Caravel under Sail: The Santa Maria is Almost Grounded on Reef." *Chicago Daily Tribune*. October 2, 1893. [BlackBoard]
- "Crown for Columbus" *Chicago Daily Tribune*. October 7, 1893. [BlackBoard]
- [Zotigh, Dennis and Renee Gokey, "Indigenous Peoples' Day: Rethinking American History," Smithsonian.com October 7, 2018.](#)

- [Schulten, Katherine. "Should Columbus Day be Replaced with Indigenous People's Day?" New York Times. October 4, 2018.](#)
- [Caron, Christina. Why Some Italian-Americans Still Fiercely Defend Columbus Day." New York Times. October 5, 2018.](#)


December 5, 2018

**Due: Writing Assignment 5 [uploaded onto BlackBoard by the start of class]**

### **Cultural Revindication**

#### **Required reading:**


- Estevez, Jorge. 2008. "Amerindian mtDNA in Puerto Rico: When does DNA matter?" *Centro Journal* 20, no. 2: 219-228. [BlackBoard]
- Haslip-Viera, Gabriel. "Amerindian MtDNA Does Not Matter: A Reply to Jorge Estevez and the Privileging of Taino Identity in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean." *Centro Journal* 20, no. 2 (2008): 228-37. [BlackBoard]

 *Please note: Please visit the Taíno: Native Heritage and Identity in the Caribbean exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian at 1 Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004 before 12/5/18. We will not meet in class tonight; our discussion will take place on BlackBoard. The facilitators should post a question related to the readings. Everyone should post a thread about their experience viewing the Taíno exhibit and a selfie in order to be marked present for tonight's class. If you do not want to post your selfie, please e-mail it to me instead.*

### **Cartonera Workshop 2**

Thursday, December 6, 2018 12:30-1:45pm

This workshop (2 of 2) is not mandatory; it is being held during Club Hours.

 *Please note: We will meet in the Cohen Library, NAC 5/337. Once inside Cohen Library, take the elevators to the 5th floor and make a right. NAC 5/337 is at the end of the hall to the right.*


Week 16: December 10, 2018

### **"A Conquest Diary" Cartonera - Show, Tell & Cartonera Readings**

December 12, 2018

#### **Final Discussion: Conquest of Latin America and Historical Memory via Music & PotLuck**

- If you're attending this class, please fill out the potluck sign-up sheet in BlackBoard (under Discussion Board)

 *Please note: We will meet in the Cohen Library, NAC 5/337. Once inside Cohen Library, take the elevators to the 5th floor and make a right. NAC 5/337 is at the end of the hall to the right.*

December 17, 2018 11:59pm

**\*\*\*\*\* Due: Researched Critical Analysis Paper \*\*\*\*\***

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is subject to change according to the needs of the class, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. You will be informed of any changes in advance.