

HIST 271: Introduction to Colonial Latin American History

Dr. Ariel de la Fuente

Fall 2020 | Tuesday and Thursday | 4:30-5:45pm | UNIV 301



Despite being our closest neighbors, the countries of Latin America remain a mystery to most Americans. This is a general survey course, the purpose of which is to explore the principal historical themes of Latin America during the colonial period (roughly, from 1492 to 1810). After a brief look at the geography of Latin America, we will cover such topics as the encounter between Europeans and indigenous peoples, institutional structures of empire, the composition of society, Spanish and Portuguese Indian policies and native responses, economies and labor systems, and finally, the growth of distinctive cultural and racial identities on the eve of independence.