

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**

**HISTORY 3597F
SPAIN'S SILVER EMPIRE:
A SOCIAL HISTORY OF MINES, TRADE AND CITIES IN
THE SPANISH AMERICAN COLONIES**

Wednesday 10:30-12:30
STH 1155
Off. Hours T. 9:00-10:00 and 11:30- 1:30

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The initial years of the conquest rendered vast amounts of gold for the Spanish *conquistadores* and their king. However it soon became obvious that the new lands hid not only gold but enormous amounts of silver. The first silver discoveries, dating from 1530, initiated a period of colonization and expansion unequalled in western history and laid the bases for the economic development of Spanish America. Soon silver began to guide political decisions, determine the location of urban centres and influenced local commerce and transoceanic trading routes. It also affected legislation and racial distinctions and shaped the socio-economic pyramid.

This course will explore the social implications of silver mining for Spanish American workers, mine owners, merchants, noble families and government officials. In doing so, students will examine primary and secondary sources and learn about the main historiographical debates of this fascinating period.

This third-year course is designed to help students develop their research, analytic and writing skills as well as their ability to work as a team and to speak in public. In order to achieve these goals the course will include lectures, discussions on weekly readings, written assignments and a final presentation and discussion of a chosen topic.

Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Identify key figures, events and historiographical trends of colonial Latin American history.
- Analyze the different figures and groups placing them in their historical context.
- Compare the social consequences of export economies on colonial and modern societies.
- Connect economic patterns and events with legislation and social change in colonial societies.
- Analyze and assess primary and secondary texts and utilize them in a written essay.
- Improve oral and written communication skills
- Acquire and/or develop team work skills.

TEXTBOOKS

Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, 7th ed., (New York, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2010).

Edith Boorstein Couturier, *The Silver King: The Remarkable Life of the Count of Regla in Colonial Mexico* (Albuquerque, University of New Mexico, 2003).

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Class discussion (30% of final grade)

This is mainly a discussion course in which all students are expected to participate. Each week one student will lead the class discussion. Reading of the assigned articles as well as participation in their analysis and discussion is mandatory. The quality of issues discussed as well as individual participation will have an essential role in determining the final mark.

Students will write two short papers worth 10% and 15% respectively:

1) Five to seven page review of Edith Boorstein Couturier, *The Silver King: The Remarkable Life of the Count of Regla in Colonial Mexico*, due Oct. 12.

2) A short historiographical review on any four of the weekly readings (excluding the textbook). Due Nov. 9.

Historiographical Paper (30% of final grade)

Each student will write a fifteen-page historiographical paper on a selected topic related to the course. The paper will be based on a minimum of seven secondary (a maximum of three titles from the general readings may be included) and two primary sources. A tentative topic and bibliography will be handed in September 28 and must be approved before students begin their research. Students are advised to choose the same or a similar topic to that of their final presentation. **Papers will be due one week after the presentation.**

Team Presentation (15% of final grade)

Students will be divided into teams. Each team will prepare a presentation on a selected topic related to the material covered in the course. The goal of the presentation will be to introduce the rest of the students to the chosen topic, to promote team work and to improve the presenters' public speaking skills. All team participants will take part in the presentation and each one will hand in a record of his/her work and contributions to the presentation. All students must attend all the presentations and participate in the discussion. Students who do not attend all final presentations will lose 25% of their final participation grade.

****Please Note:** **No late papers will be accepted.**
 All requirements must be fulfilled to pass the course.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 28	Tentative topic of Final Historiographical Paper.
October 12	Book Review of <i>The Silver King: The Remarkable Life of the Count of Regla in Colonial Mexico</i>
November 2	Short Historiographical Review
November 23, 30 and December 7	Final presentations and historiographical papers due.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- I INTRODUCTION Sept. 14
Division of work, general introduction to Latin America and its history.
- II COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA I Sept. 21
Political organization and legislation (lecture)
Discussion of General Readings and *Papal Bull 1493*.
- Burkholder and Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, Chapter I, p. 12-51, Chapter II The Age of Conquest and Chapter III, Ruling New World Empires.
- Inter caetera www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/indig-inter-caetera.html
- III COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA II Sept. 28
Race, class and Religion (lecture).
Discussion of General Readings
- Burkholder and Johnson, Chapters 4, Population and Labor, Chapter 5, Production, Exchange and Defense.
- John Lynch, "The Institutional Framework of Colonial Spanish America," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 24, Quincentenary Supplement: The Colonial and Post Colonial Experience. Five Centuries of Spanish and Portuguese America (1992), pp. 69-81
- IV SILVER MINING IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA: WHERE, HOW, WHY? Oct. 5
Silver discoveries, mining techniques, technological problems and their social consequences.
- Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 6, The Social Economy: Societies of Caste and Class.
- Carlos Sempat Assadourian, "The Colonial Economy: The Transfer of the European System of Production to New Spain and Peru," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 24, Quincentenary Supplement: The Colonial and Post Colonial Experience. Five Centuries of Spanish and Portuguese America (1992), pp. 55-68.
- 'Lords Who Hold Temporal Government Over Vassals'" (Mexico, 1585) in Richard Boyer and Spurling, *Colonial Lives, Documents on Latin American History, 1550-1850*, Oxford University Press, 2000, 32-38.* (WebCt)
- V THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES: MINES, HACIENDAS AND TOWNS. Oct. 12

Interdependence and territorial expansion.

****BOOK REVIEW DUE.**

Couturier's *The Silver King: The Remarkable Life of the Count of Regla in Colonial Mexico*.

Stanley J. Stein, "Tending the Store: Trade and Silver at the Real de Huautla, 1778-1781," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 77, No. 3 (Aug., 1997), pp. 377-407.

VI IMPERIAL PRIORITIES: BULLION AND TRADE. Oct.19
Mercantilism, galleons and piracy

Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 5,

L. A. Clayton "Trade and Navigation in the Seventeenth-Century Viceroyalty of Peru," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (May, 1975), pp. 1-21

Peter T. Bradley, "The Loss of the Flagship of the Armada del Mar del Sur (1654) and Related Aspects of Viceregal Administration," *The Americas*, Vol. 45, No. 3, (Jan. 1989), 383-403.

M. F. Lang, "New Spain's Mining Depression and the Supply of Quicksilver from Peru 1600-1700," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Nov., 1968), pp. 632-641.

VII MINES AND LABOUR: A COMPARISON OF MEXICO AND PERU Oct. 26.
Mitayos, mingas, slaves, free wage labour and debt peonage

Jeffrey A. Cole, "Viceregal Persistence Versus Indian Mobility: The Impact of the Duque de la Palata's Reform Program on Alto Peru, 1681-1692," *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (1984), pp. 37-56.

Kendall W. Brown, "Workers' Health and Colonial Mercury Mining at Huancavelica, Peru," *The Americas*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Apr., 2001), pp. 467-496

Ward Stavig, "Continuing the Bleeding of These Pueblos Will Shortly Make Them Cadavers: The Potosi *Mita*, Cultural Identity, and Communal Survival in Colonial Peru," *The Americas*, Vol. 56, No. 4 (Apr., 2000), pp. 529-562.

VIII MINES AND LABOUR Nov. 2.
Alexander von Humboldt, *Political Essay of the Kingdom of New Spain*, 1811. Excerpts.

SHORT HISTORIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW DUE.

Discussion of Papers in class

Noblet Barry Danks, "The Labor Revolt of 1766 in the Mining Community of Real Del Monte," *The Americas*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (Oct., 1987), pp. 143-165.

IX SILVER AND THE BOURBON REFORMS: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES. Nov. 9 Taxes, trade, training and the mercury monopoly.

Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 9, Imperial Expansion, p. 280-337.

Adrian J. Pearce "Huancavelica 1700-1759: Administrative Reform of the Mercury Industry in Early Bourbon Peru," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 79, No. 4 (Nov., 1999), pp. 669-702.

Arthur Whitaker, "The Elhuyar Mining Missions and the Enlightenment," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* Vol. 31, No. 4 (Nov. 1951), pp. 557-581.

Carlos Marichal; Matilde Souto Mantecón, Silver and *Situados*: New Spain and the Financing of the Spanish Empire in the Caribbean in the Eighteenth Century, *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 74, No. 4 (Nov., 1994), pp. 587-613.

X MINERS AND MERCHANTS: BUSINESS AND PERSONAL TIES. Nov. 16. Life, duties and privileges of the main colonial families

Burkholder and Johnson, Chapter 7 The Family and Society.

Patricia H. Marks, "Confronting a Mercantile Elite: Bourbon Reformers and the Merchants of Lima, 1765-1796," *The Americas*, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Apr., 2004), pp. 519-558

John E. Kicza, The Great Families of Mexico: Elite Maintenance and Business Practices in Late Colonial Mexico City, *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 62, No. 3 (Aug., 1982), pp. 429-457.

Couturier, Edith Boorstein, "Women in a Noble Family: the Mexican Counts of Regla, 1750-1830," in Asunción Lavrín, *Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978), 129-149.