HISTORY 222 : Environment and Capitalism in Latin America

Class schedule

Note: the calendar and the assigned readings are subject to changes during the semester. If something is modified a date note highlighted in yellow will indicate it.

Week 1. Introduction

❖ Thursday, January 21 - Welcome!
Getting to know each other, presentation of the syllabus, explanation of the policies.

Week 2. Environment and Global Capitalism in Latin America: historical perspectives

❖ Tuesday, January 26 - Theoretical Approximations

❖ Thursday, January 28 - Environmental Justice in Latin America

Week 3. Deep Colonization I. The Ecological Shock

❖ Tuesday, February 2 - Demographic and Environmental Consequences of the Iberian Conquest


extras (optional):
➢ video about the [Columbian Exchange](#)
Thursday, February 4 - **Brainstorming session**

➢ Choose a potential research project from the list and upload to Sakai, a description of the place and environmental problem you plan on studying (one or two paragraphs long) and a research question

➢ Primary source: *The Letter of Columbus to Luis De Sant Angel Announcing His Discovery (1493)*

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**Week 4. Deep Colonization II. Changing the Landscapes**

➢ Tuesday, February 9 - **Animals as Vectors of Colonisation**


➢ Thursday, February 11 - **Workshop: How to do Research while Online?**

➢ Introduction to the Library catalogue and ressources

➢ Tutorial about Zotero and best practices

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**Week 5. Deep Colonization III. Cities, Water and Land**

➢ Tuesday, February 16 - **The Colonial City and its Environment**


➢ The Desagüe: some illustrations
Thursday, February 18 - Workshop: Bibliography

➢ Put together a bibliography for your project
➢ Write a brief paragraph commenting each item and the way it relates to your project
➢ Write an introduction to the bibliography

Week 6. Bowels of the Earth I. Rivers of Silver, from the Mountains to the Oceans

❖ Tuesday, February 23 - Silver and World Trade


❖ Thursday, February 25 - Workshop: presentation of the research projects

➢ Articulate and narrow down a research question
➢ Identify distinct aspects of the project for phase 2
➢ Prepare a presentation for the class

Week 7. Bowels of the Earth II. “Silver veins and dusty lungs”

❖ Tuesday, March 2 - Extraction ecologies


❖ Thursday, March 4 - Extraction ecologies in Mexico

➢ Workshop - Project Specific Readings

■ Read the readings assigned to your project (previously discussed with the instructor)
■ As a team, discuss and write down the ways the readings relate to your project
Week 8. Bowels of the Earth III. Resource extraction and conflict

*no class this Tuesday*

❖ Thursday, March 11 - **Oil and mining**


Week 9. Sweet Capitalism I. Sugar and Global Capitalism

❖ Tuesday, March 16 - **Sugar from luxury to staple food**

➤ Sidney W. Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: the Place of Sugar in Modern History*, New York, NY, Viking, 1985. [excerpts] introduction + chapter 1 + chapter 2 + half chapter 3 if you can

➤ Primary source: sugar read the excerpt from Bernadin de Saint Pierre (slides 16-18). link to the book if you prefer pp. 119-123

❖ Thursday, March 18 - **The formation of the English Working Class**


➤ some references related to the week’s discussions

  ■ *I want Candy - Marie Antoinette*

Week 10. Sweet Capitalism II. “This is the price at which you eat sugar in Europe” (*Candide*, Ch. XIX, Voltaire, 1759)

❖ Tuesday, March 23 - **Sugar and Slavery**


➤ *An Address to the People of Great Britain, on the Propriety of Abstaining from West India Sugar and Rum* (1792 [1790])

➤ *A Second Address to the People of Great Britain: Containing a New, and Most Powerful Argument to Abstain from the Use of West India Sugar* (1792)
➢ some more readings related to today’s discussion
  ■  From Jane Austen to Beatrice and Eugenie … the long reach of UK slave-owning families
  ■  Follow the money: investigators trace forgotten story of Britain’s slave trade

❖ Thursday, March 25 - Workshop: Peer-editing session in teams
  ➢ Peer editing session
  ■  Writing assignment: first draft of the individual writing due

Week 11. Sweet Capitalism III. “The deepest wound”

❖ Tuesday, March 30 - Sugar in Brazil

❖ Thursday, April 1 - Workshop: Synthetic Map
  ➢ Thinking about your project in spatial or graphic terms
  ➢ Discuss with team
  ➢ Create a map for your project

Week 12. World commerce I. Luxurious dyes

❖ Tuesday, April 6 - Imperial Competition, Land and Labor

❖ Thursday, April 8 - Co-authored introduction
  ➢ Discuss with your team conclusions that can be drawn from your different texts
  ➢ Plan a collective text integrating all your research, assign parts for the final draft
Week 13. World commerce II. Tropical flavors

❖ Tuesday, April 13 - Bananas and the environment


❖ Thursday, April 15 - Workshop: Collective Writing and Editing Session

➢ Collective writing session

➢ Final review of project

➢ Peer editing

◆ Writing project: Final draft to be posted by Sunday

Week 14. Writing presentations

❖ Tuesday, April 20 - Presentations of the writing projects

❖ Thursday, April 22 - Presentations of the writing projects and conclusions

———General bibliography

Zotero shared bibliography and resources:

https://www.zotero.org/groups/2426118/environment_and_global_capitalism_in_latin_america