

## LAST100: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Midterm Examination, October 25, 2017

Select *five* of the following seven passages. In each case, identify the title, the author(s) (if the text has one), and the approximate date of writing and/or publication (within ten years). Comment briefly on how this passage relates to the text from which it is taken, examining the thematic significance of the passage for the text as a whole and, where it may be useful, noting issues of form or style. Discuss also the broader historical context and what the passage has to say about some of the themes we have been discussing in the course.

- 1) But our own America, which has had poets  
since the ancient times of Nezahualc6yolt;  
[. . .]  
and has lived, since the earliest moments of its life,  
in light, in fire, in fragrance, and in love—  
the America of Moctezuma and Atahualpa,  
the aromatic America of Columbus,  
Catholic America, Spanish America,  
the America where noble Cuauth6moc said:  
“I am not in a bed of roses”—our America,  
trembling with hurricanes, trembling with Love:  
O men with Saxon eyes and barbarous souls,  
our America lives. And dreams. And loves.
- 2) I served as a lieutenant for five years. I was there at the battle of Puren where my captain fell, leaving me in command of the company for some six months, and during that time I had a number of encounters with the enemy and took a few arrows. In one battle, I came up against one of the Indian captains, Francisco Quispiguaucha, a newly made Christian and a rich one too, whose devilish raids gave us plenty of trouble. I met him on the field, threw him from his horse, and he surrendered to me. I immediately strung him up from the nearest tree, and this made the governor furious, for as it turned out he had wanted the man taken alive.
- 3) The first steer butchered was gifted whole to the Restorer, who was known for his penchant for grilled meat. A committee of butchers marched off to deliver it in the name of the Federalists of the Alto Slaughter Yard, and they personally expressed their gratitude for the government’s wise providence, their unlimited support for the Restorer, and their deep hatred of the enemies of God and man—the Unitarian savages. The Restorer responded to their harangue in the same vein, and the ceremony ended with the appropriate cheers and vociferations from spectators and actors. One must assume that the Bishop had granted the Restorer a special dispensation to eat meat, since being such a strict observer of the laws, such a good Catholic, and such a staunch defender of the faith, he would have set a bad example by accepting such a gift on a holy day.

*Turn over the page...*

- 4) In the year 1514, the seventh year of the pontificate of Pope Julius II, [. . .] Don Francisco Pizarro, Don Diego de Almagro, Fray Vicente of the Order of St. Francis, and the Indian interpreter Felipe Guanca Bilca, joined together with Martin Fernandes Inseso and 350 soldiers and embarked for the kingdom of the Indies of Peru. And they did not wish to rest a single day in any port. Each day they did nothing but think of the gold and silver and riches of the Indies of Peru. They were like a desperate man, foolish, crazy, out of their minds with their greed for gold and silver. At times they could not eat for thinking about gold and silver. At times they had great feasts, as it seemed they had all the gold and silver within their grasp. It was like a house cat when he has the mouse in his claws, then he rejoices. And if not, he always sets up ambushes and works and all his care and thought is set on that, till he catches it; he does not stop, and always returns to that.
- 5) The ideas of freedom born in this century, by extending the circle of women's prerogatives, have infused them with new aspirations and unveiled great things to think about and occupy themselves with. The women of today are not the women of the past. The change that has taken place within them in these recent times is profound. Instead of poetry, today they need philosophy, practical philosophy that better idealizes life when it saves women from the critical circumstances of a dark and difficult existence, responding to the great interests of humanity.
- 6) It seemed hard to realize that I was listening to a soldier who had ruled a republic continuously for more than a quarter of a century with a personal authority unknown to most kings. Yet he spoke with a simple and convincing manner, as one whose place was great and secure beyond the need of hypocrisy.

"It is quite true that when a man has occupied a powerful office for a very long time he is likely to begin to look upon it as his personal property, and it is well that a free people should guard themselves against the tendencies of individual ambition.

"Yet the abstract theories of democracy and the practical, effective application of them are often necessarily different—that is when you are seeking for the substance rather than the mere form."
- 7) To know is to solve. To know the country and govern it in accordance with that knowledge is the only way of freeing it from tyranny. The European university must yield to the American university. The history of America from the Incas to the present must be taught in its smallest detail, even if the Greek Archons go untaught. Our own Greece is preferable to the Greece that is not ours; we need it more. Statesmen who arise from the nation must replace statesmen who are alien to it. Let the world be grafted onto our republics, but we must be the trunk.

*Good luck!*