

LAST100: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Final Examination. December 15, 2017, 8:30-11am, Room A203

You must complete both parts of the exam. Do leave time to check over your work.

PART I (40%)

Choose *six* of the following concepts, and in each case write a brief (paragraph or two) definition and description. In your account, you should both a) say something about the concept as it applies to the region in general and b) give at least one specific example.

- a) race
- b) representation
- c) The USA
- d) caudillos
- e) rights
- f) technology
- g) Evita
- h) violence
- i) modernity
- j) Zapata

PART II (60%)

Choose *one* of the following questions as the topic of a written essay.

- a) What has been the legacy of the colonial experience in Latin America? Drawing on specific examples and particular texts where relevant, discuss the ways in which the effects of Spanish and/or Portuguese colonialism can be seen in the postcolonial history of the region, and perhaps even today.
- b) Discuss the different economic and trade practices, policies, theories, and models that have shaped Latin America. Drawing on specific examples and particular texts, you may want to consider (for example) resource extraction, export-driven modernization, import-substitution industrialization, dependency theory, neoliberalism, and (again) resource extraction. You may also want to consider particularly the paradoxes of “free” trade and “unequal exchange.” Do these help explain why the region has so often apparently struggled to “develop” in economic terms?
- c) What responsibility (if any) do we have—as students, as residents of Canada—when it comes to representing and discussing Latin America? Are there any particular ethical or political issues involved in the ways in which we talk about the object of our study, or the stories that we tell about it? Drawing on specific examples and particular texts, you may want to consider, for instance, whether there is any reason why we might want to favor a more optimistic narrative (that focuses on resistance and creative agency from below, say), over a more pessimistic narrative (that stresses the difficulties the region has suffered over the centuries)?

Good luck!