Instructor: Robert Scott  
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Tel: 621-3247  
Office Hours: Wed 1-3 pm; or by appointment

Course Description
This course is a survey of the history of Central America from the Spanish conquest to the present, focusing on regional economies, ethnic and class conflict, and the politics of state formation. We will explore how Central Americans have constructed and interpreted racial and class identities, analyze the functions these identities have played in Central American societies, and consider how they have influenced cultural, economic, and political developments. The course is organized chronologically, as we will be concentrating on three themes: the colonial experience; nineteenth-century nation formation, and; militarism, revolution, and democracy in the twentieth century.

Course Objectives
Our primary goal will be to develop an interpretation of the transformations and tensions in Central American society since the conquest. In order to accomplish that goal, the course requirements – the assigned readings, the lectures, and the written assignments – aim to provide you with the necessary tools to evaluate Central America’s past. At the same time, this course is designed to further your academic skills. In particular, students will gain experience in: organizing, controlling, and handling information to effectively use as evidence in developing an argument; thinking comparatively and using comparisons as a way to analyze information; learning how to read monographs and journal articles written by historians, for historians, and; learning how to assess or evaluate arguments made by historians. In effect, you will be ‘doing’ history as professional historians ‘do’ history.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluations</td>
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<td>Book Review</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Participation, 6 reading responses</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>Journal Bonus*</td>
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Students are expected to attend all class sessions and come to class prepared to participate during the lectures. Disruptive participation (which includes chatting, reading the newspaper, text messaging, etc in class) will result in a reduction of 20 - 40% of the semester grade.
Readings: (books available at the University of Arizona Bookstore)

Required Books
Gould, Jeffrey L.  To Lead as Equals: Rural Protest and Political Consciousness in Chinandega, Nicaragua, 1912 – 1979
Martínez Peláez, Severo.  La Patria del Criollo: An Interpretation of Colonial Guatemala, trans. Neve and Lovell
Woodward, Ralph Lee, Jr.  Central America: A Nation Divided, 3rd edition

Recommended Book
MacLeod, Murdo.  Spanish Central America: A Socioeconomic History, 1520 – 1720

Articles, book chapters, and other materials (can be found on course D2L website)

Academic Integrity
Students are responsible for compliance with all University policies regarding academic integrity as well as with the American Historical Association standards for historical scholarship. Please refer to the following webpages for information regarding plagiarism:

http://history.arizona/undergraduates/plagarism.php

www.historians.org/pubs/free/professionalstandards.cfm#Plagiarism

Ignorance of the code will not be accepted as an excuse for infractions of the code. Any case of plagiarism or other forms of cheating will result in a automatic semester grade of E. All cases, after due procedures, will be reported to university officials for further action.

DRC
Students who require accommodations to participate fully in this course should register with the Disability Resource Center and contact me as soon as possible to discuss access issues. Information about the DRC can be found at the following website:

www.drc.arizona.edu
Schedule  (which is always subject to change . . . )

Part One: The Colonial Experience

Class #1 (Thur 1/14)  Course Introduction

Class #2 (Tue 1/18)  Central America on the Eve of the Conquest
  Required: Michael Coe, *The Maya*, pp. 192-229
  Required: Susan Gillespie, “Rethinking Ancient Maya Social Organization,” pp. 467-484

Class #3 (Thur 1/20)  The Conquest
  Readings: Restall and Asselbergs, *Invading Guatemala*, pp. 1-47
  Recommended: MacLeod, *Spanish Central America*, pp. 46 - 67

Class #4 (Tue 1/25)  Establishing Royal Authority
  Readings: MacLeod, *Spanish Central America*, pp. 120-142
  Recommended: Hill and Monaghan, *Continuities in Highland . . .*, pp. 76-89

Class #5 (Thur 1/27)  Approaching Colonial Social History
  Readings: MacLeod, *Spanish Central America*, pp. 1-20

Class #6 (Tue 2/1)  The Colonial Economy
  Readings: MacLeod, *Spanish Central America*, pp. 204-231; 288-309; 374-389

Class #7 (Thur 2/3)  Colonial Society (i) – The *pueblos de indios*
  Readings: Restall and Asselbergs, *Invading Guatemala*, pp. 103-118
  Relación Geográfica de Santiago Atitlán
  Martínez Peláez, *La Patria del Criollo*, pp. 225-273

Class #8 (Tue 2/8)  Colonial Society (ii) – Spaniards & Urban Life
  Eugenia Rodríguez-Sáenz, pp. 185-210

Class #9 (Thur 2/10)  Colonial Society (iii) – Those in-between
  Paul Lokken, “Marriage as Slave Emancipation,” pp. 175-200

Class #10 (Tue 2/15)  The Bourbon Reforms
  Readings: Jorge H. Gonzalez, pp. 129-155
  Woodward, *Central America*, pp. 61-91

Part Two: The Long Nineteenth Century

Class #11 (Thur 2/17)  Tensions of Empire
  Readings: Aaron Pollack, “An Indian King on the Eve of Independence”
  ***Due:*** Book Review of *La Patria del Criollo*
Class #12 (Tue 2/22) Independence: From Two Republics to a Nation Divided
Readings: Jordana Dym, “Our Pueblos, Fractions with no Unity,” pp. 433-466
Handout: Midterm

Class #13 (Thur 2/24) --No Class-- (Writing Exam)

****Exam Due:**** Friday February 25 (3pm in drop box folder “Midterm Exam”)
****Under no circumstances will late exams be accepted****

Class #14 (Tue 3/1) Federalists, Conservatives, and Filibusters
Jordana Dym, “Citizen of Which Republic?,” pp. 477-510

Class #15 (Thur 3/3) The Liberal Oligarchies: Progress and Order
Readings: James Mahoney, “Radical, Reformists, and Aborted Liberalism,” 221-256
Greg Grandin, “The Strange Case of La Mancha Negra,” 211-243

Class #16 (Tue 3/8) Agrarian Capitalism (i) – The Rise of Export Commodities
Readings: Woodward, *Central America*, pp. 149-202
John Soluri, “Going Bananas”

Class #17 (Thur 3/10) Agrarian Capitalism (ii) – Transforming Rural Society
Readings: Elizabeth Dore, “Households and Public Regulation of Domestic Life” pp. 591-611
Lowell Gudmundson, “Peasant, Farmer, Proletarian,” pp. 221-257

--------- Spring Break ---------

Class #18 (Tue 3/22) The Limits of Nineteenth-Century Liberalism
Readings: Woodward, *Central America*, pp. 203-224
Eric Ching, “In Search of the Party,” pp. 204-239

Class #19 (Thur 3/24) Peer Review

***Due:*** Essay

**Part Three: Militarism, Revolution, and Democracy – Nicaragua & Guatemala**

Class #20 (Tue 3/29) Peasants: Emergence of a New Political Force
Eric Hobsbawm, “Peasants and Politics,” pp. 3-22

Class #21 (Thur 3/31) Nicaragua (i): 1880s-1940s
Readings: Gould, *To Lead as Equals*, pp. 1-84

Class #22 (Tues 4/5) Nicaragua (ii): Rise of the Somozas
Readings: Gould, *To Lead as Equals*, pp. 18-156

--------- (Thur 4/7) Class Cancelled:
I am attending Rocky Mountain Council for Latin America Annual Conference
Readings: Gould, *To Lead as Equals*, pp. 157-241
Class #23 (Tue 4/12)  Nicaragua (iii): Sandinismo and Sandinista Revolution (i)
Readings:  Gould, *To Lead as Equals*, pp. 245-306

Class #24 (Thur 4/14)  Nicaragua (iv): Sandinismo and Sandinista Revolution (ii)

Class #25 (Tue 4/19)  Guatemala (i) – 1880s-1940s
Readings:  Jim Handy, *Gift of the Devil*, pp. 57-101
           Introduction to 1894 Census

Class #26 (Thur 4/21)  Guatemala (ii) – The October Revolution (1944-1954)
           Decree 900

Class #27 (Tue 4/26)  Guatemala (iii) – 36 Years of Civil War
Readings:  Jennifer Schirmer, *The Guatemalan Military Project*, pp. 9-34
           Linda Green, “The Routinization of Fear in Rural Guatemala,” pp. 1-19
           Paul and Demerest, “The Operation of a Death Squad in San Pedro la Laguna,” pp. 119-154

Class #28 (Thur 4/28)  Guatemala (iv) – Peace and Reconciliation?
           Francisco Goldman, “Murder comes for the Bishop”

Class #29 (Tue 5/3)  Central America: Directions for the 21st Century
Handout Final Exam

**** Final Exams due: Tuesday, May 10 2011 between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm.

*** Under no circumstances will late submissions be accepted. ***