

**A SYLLABUS OF
LATIN-AMERICAN
HISTORY**

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A syllabus of Latin-American history by William Whatley Pierson

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BY

WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, Jr., Ph. D.
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA



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TO THE
AMERICAN

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

"In the establishment of the independence of Spanish America the United States have the deepest interest. I have no hesitation in asserting my firm belief that there is no question in the foreign policy of this country, which has ever arisen, or which I can conceive as ever occurring, in the decision of which we have had or can have so much at stake."—Henry Clay, *The Emancipation of South America*.

This syllabus is designed primarily for the use of students of the University of North Carolina as a guide to the introductory study of Latin-American history. In it an effort has been made to provide for as general and comprehensive a study of Latin-American civilization as the time limits of a single one year's course would permit. In such a process, of course, selection and rejection of data were necessary. The student seeking to specialize will, therefore, find it possible and easy to elaborate and amplify each of the chapters and sections into which the outline has been divided. Despite such comprehensiveness as was mentioned, the writer has endeavored to emphasize the institutional and economic aspects. The necessity of elimination and the effort at emphasis have resulted in the relegation of political history to a position of comparatively less prominence and significance than some might expect. For this the writer must plead necessity.

In view of the great contemporary interest in Latin America no case for the study of its history need be made. That interest in the United States has been chiefly caused by the exigencies and effects of a war which have made people conscious of trade opportunities formerly non-existent or, while existent, unrecognized, and many have concluded that the diplomatic, political and economic importance of Latin America has made of prime necessity a thorough study and a sympathetic understanding of its past history and institutions. The field of Latin-American history has hitherto been little known to and too often neglected by the undergraduate student in the universities,—if indeed, courses in such history have been offered. It is in the opinion of the writer, however, not lacking in comparative importance, interest, and cultural value with fields better known. It is hoped and confidently expected that the interest in the history and institutions of the Latin-American countries recently engendered by the consciousness that these countries have become potent economic factors in the modern world will be abiding. Latin-American history as a standard course will have much justification, for the part which the Latin-American peoples will play in the future, as Viscount Bryce recently said, "must henceforth be one of growing significance for the Old World as well as for the New."

The course as outlined in this syllabus provides for the study of the history, geography, political and social institutions, and the economic development and possibilities of Latin-American countries. A careful analysis and investigation will thus be made of the Spanish and Portuguese colonial systems and colonial experience in order to explain the wars of independence and the existing political and social conditions. Attention will then be directed to the development of republics, the struggle for political stability, and the exploitation of resources. The course will also include some study of the international relations—political and economic—and diplomatic problems which have arisen in recent Latin-American history.

At the outset the prospective student is warned that as yet there exists no single text-book devoted to the Latin-American republics which satisfactorily and adequately presents their history, describes their present conditions and discusses their institutions. This absence, of necessity, determines that the course will be based largely upon material to be found only in a number of books, public documents, and scientific reports. An effort has been made in this syllabus to meet this difficult situation. Lectures following the outline of the syllabus and explanatory of it, and recitations based on assigned readings, will constitute the class work. On these lectures and readings the students will be expected to take notes. In addition, they will be required to make certain class reports and at least once during the year to prepare, after consultation with the instructor, an essay on some topic of the syllabus or allied phase of the work.

Students will be required to provide themselves individually with a copy of this syllabus and with W. R. Shepherd's *Latin America* (Holt & Company). It is strongly recommended that they purchase also F. Garcia Calderon's *Latin America: Its Rise and Progress* (Scribners) and W. H. Koebel's *South America* (A. and C. Black). For the general student and reader the following list of books is recommended:

For description, geography, travel, peoples and social conditions:

James Bryce, *South America: Observations and Impressions*. (Macmillan).

C. R. Enock, *The Republics of Central and South America*. (Dent & Sons).

A. H. Keane, *Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel: Central and South America*. (2 Vols., Lippincott).

R. Reyes, *The Two Americas*. (Stokes).

A. Ruhl, *The Other Americans*. (Scribners).

A. H. Savage-Landor, *Across Unknown South America*. (2 Vols., Hudder & Stoughton).

For history:

T. C. Dawson, *The South American Republics*. (3 Vols. Putnam).

- A. H. Noll, *A Short History of Mexico*. (McClurg).
 F. Palmer, *Central America and its Problems*. (Moffat, Yard & Co.)

For institutions and history:

- B. Moses, *The Establishment of Spanish Rule in America*. (Putnam).

B. Moses, *South America on the Eve of Emancipation*. (Putnam).

B. Moses, *Spanish Dependencies in South America*. (Harpers).

- F. L. Paxson, *The Independence of the South American Republics*. (Ferris and Leach).

For trade relations:

- W. E. Aughinbaugh, *Selling Latin America*. (Small, Maynard & Company).

E. B. Filsinger, *Exporting to Latin America*. (Appleton).

- A. H. Verrill, *South and Central American Trade Conditions of Today*. (Dodd, Mead & Company).

The Monthly *Bulletin* and other publications of the Pan-American Union (Washington, D. C.), offer excellent and reliable information respecting all of these divisions, and are recommended.

For individual countries:

P. Denis, *Brazil*. (Scribners).

P. J. Eder, *Colombia*. (Unwin or Scribners).

G. F. S. Elliott, *Chile*. (Scribners).

C. R. Enock, *Mexico*. (Scribners).

W. A. Hirst, *Argentina*. (Scribners).

W. H. Koebel, *Argentina, Past and Present*. (Dodd, Mead & Co.).

W. H. Koebel, *Uruguay*. (Scribners).

- W. L. Scruggs, *The Colombian and Venezuelan Republics*. (Little, Brown & Co.)

M. R. Wright's books on *Bolivia*; *Brazil*; *Chile*; and *Peru*. (Cazeneuve & Son).

Students wishing to make a more detailed study than this brief list would provide for can easily find an extensive bibliography on the subject in English, Portuguese and Spanish works which are of great value. They will do well to consult P. H. Goldsmith, *A Brief Bibliography* (Macmillan), although it is admittedly incomplete in its list of books and contemptuously harsh in its judgment of many of those included. The books that have been mentioned above, as well as those that have been listed in the syllabus, can be obtained from the publishers directly, through the University by special request of the student, or by ordering through some such wholesale and retail house as Baker & Taylor, New York City. The University of North Carolina, through the Bureau of Extension, Division of Correspondence Study, will be glad to give information and assistance to any who wish to purchase books for this study.

The writer would anticipate the criticism that the list of books specified in the syllabus for reading is incomplete. Since these readings are designed for class purposes and are selected as being practicable, the incompleteness was scarcely avoidable. The specialist will again find it easy to enlarge. In the list of readings, in order to conserve space, the author's name and full title of the book are stated when the first reference is made; thereafter only the author's name is employed, except in such cases in which the author has written more than one book or in which clearness seems to demand repetition.

The writer wishes to make acknowledgment of thanks for the advice and expert criticism of Professor William R. Shepherd of Columbia University, the greatest authority on the subject of Latin-American history and Hispanic institutions. He is also grateful for the valuable aid and suggestions of his friend, Mr. C. L. Chandler, formerly of the Consular Service and now associated with the Southern Railway and other railways. He was particularly benefited by Mr. Chandler's suggestions respecting the chapter on trade relations between Latin America and the United States. While profiting much from the ideas and advice of both, he is responsible for any errors and omissions as may appear.

Chapel Hill, N. C., October 2, 1916.