

HISTORY 151 – Modern Latin American Civilization

Spring 2026 (12week, 3/9 - 6/7) Section 72177

FULLY ONLINE – CANVAS

NO INSTRUCTIONAL MEETINGS REQUIRED

This course is a study of Latin American civilization in the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries with a focus on the historical background of contemporary conditions and issues. Geographic areas of focus include Mexico, Caribbean (Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Cuba), Central America (El Salvador), and South America (Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, and Brazil). We will look at questions such as “Who is an American?,” “What is a revolution and what is the legacy of a revolution?,” and “How does democracy function in states with delicate government structures?” by reviewing primary and secondary source documents. We will also take a deep dive into El Salvador to look at the role of the United States in the Cold War and what we learn from how this relationship has changed and persists over time. You will be required to participate in group discussions, and presentations, and be an active learner in this class. Being able to convey your thoughts verbally and in essay format is a skill that takes time and practice thus you will have ample opportunity to practice. Get ready to share: we all need to mentally present, even in an online class! *You should expect to write the equivalent of 15-20 pages (3750-5000 words) for this course in variety of assignments that may include: short or long answer essay exams/quizzes, research projects, identifications and/or historical reflections/journals throughout the duration of the course.*



Figure 1 Fidel Castro on the Jan. 26, 1959, cover of TIME, Cover Credit: Boris Chaliapin



Figure 2 Pele's Backward Bicycle Kick, 1968, Photo Credit: AP/Shutterstock

“If the past has nothing to say to the present, history may go on sleeping undisturbed in the closet where the system keeps its old disguises.”

— [Eduardo Galeano](#)

Instructor Information:

Megan Lange: **CANVAS INBOX PREFERRED**
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lange_megan@sac.edu

Office Location: D-407
Office Hours: by appointment – phone/Zoom/Pronto
Website: www.langemegan.com



College Mission: Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners.

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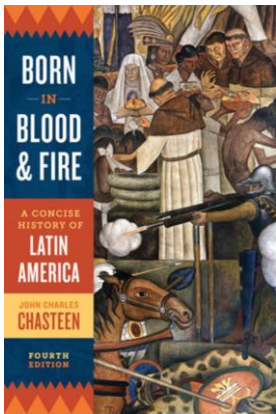
Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Critically analyze and interpret primary documents and secondary sources, and will be able to interpret qualitative and quantitative data in order to evaluate historical events;
- 2) Develop communication skills through oral and written exercises, and develop analytical skills by critically interpreting historical events;
- 3) Analyze how local, national, and international policies and practices developed in the past continue to impact your contemporary life.

Course Requirements:

The study of history involves a lot of reading and analyzing content. As such, this course requires a lot of reading and writing. You will be given detailed instructions and grading rubrics for each assignment, and all assignments are due on the date they are listed on the calendar.



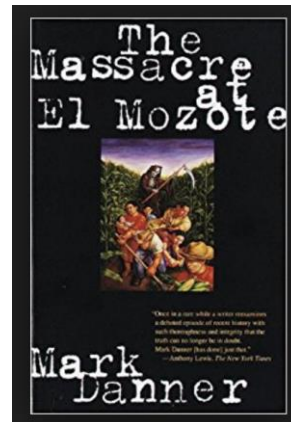
There are two required course texts:

Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, 4th ed.

By John Charles Chasteen
ISBN: 978-0-393-28305-1

The Massacre at El Mozote

By Mark Danner
ISBN: 978-0-679-75525-8



ONE copy of each text is available at the SAC Library – plan accordingly (Chasteen in main stacks, Danner on reserve at the Circulation Desk).

Reading assignments and other materials not found in the required textbooks will be made available and stored in Canvas. **You are responsible to obtain a copy of each of these texts for your personal use throughout the semester. I wholeheartedly embrace digital textbooks for their ease of access and use, especially in an online class.**

Canvas

HIST 151 is fully online using CANVAS as the learning platform. You can access Canvas through the SAC website, or by going directly to <http://rscgd.instructure.com> –use your Self-Service single sign-on credentials to login and choose “HIST 151” from your course list to access our course shell. If you attempt to login but are unable to do so, try following these [steps outlined by the Distance Education office](#).

If you have other questions about Canvas and how it works, you can ask me or you can call their Help Desk at 1-844-612-7428 - save this number!

Direct ALL questions related to schedule and course content to me, using the “Inbox” tool embedded in Canvas (it works just like email).

Is this your first fully online course? Great! I highly recommend that you complete the [Quest for Online Success](#) available to all SAC students. Even if you are not new to online, you may be new to SAC or to Canvas, and this training component will help you get prepared for a semester online at Santa Ana College. I will award 3pts of Extra Credit for proof of completion of this training course.

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Course Policies:

Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space is a safe and open space, conducive to learning. Respect for yourself, fellow classmates and me, the instructor, is required for lively and productive discussion. Dissenting opinions are not only tolerated, but they are encouraged. I will jump into discussions from time to time to add probing questions or to clarify information that was posted.

Attendance/Class Participation:

Since we do not meet face to face in a classroom, the guidelines for attendance differ slightly. I will however still monitor your comings and goings in the course, as well as time spent on some activities, made possible by Canvas. I encourage you to log in to our course shell daily, at least for the first few weeks while you get a feel for the weekly schedule and flow.

In addition, there are three preliminary milestones you need to meet in order to stay enrolled in the class:

- 1. Log in to the course shell BEFORE TUESDAY, MARCH 10; if I see you have not logged in by Tuesday you may be dropped from the course.**
- 2. Review the Course Information module in its entirety, and complete the introductory/syllabus quiz by MONDAY, MARCH 16, 11:59pm.**
- 3. Post a reply to Discussion 1, Introductions -Week 1, by SATURDAY, MARCH 14 as well as two responses to your peers by Monday, March 16, 11:59pm.**

Failure to meet these deadlines may result in automatic exclusion from the course. Throughout the semester, if I see that you have not logged in or engaged with course material for over a week, this too may result in being dropped from the course. I encourage you to communicate with me early and often if you are experiencing difficulties (with technology, schedule or other) to avoid getting behind or being excluded.

The last day to drop the course **without** a "W" is MARCH 25, 2026; **with** a "W" is MAY 16, 2026.

Grading Policy:

Assignments and exams will be given points according to the following scale:

- Weekly Discussions (10 total) = 150 points (15 points each)
- Reading Responses (2 total) = 60 points (30 points each)
- Primary Source Analyses (2 total) = 60 points (30 points each)
- Orientation/Syllabus Quiz & Primary/Secondary Source Quiz = 20 points (10 points each)
- *Born in Blood and Fire* Chapter & Danner text Quizzes (8 total) = 80 points (10 points each)
- DLA/DOTA (completed through Learning Center) = 15 points
- Current Event analysis/presentation = 75 points
- Annotated Bibliography = 50 points
- Exams (2 total) = 70 points (35 points each)
- TOTAL = 580 points

Your percentage achievement will be computed by dividing your cumulative point total by 580. **Please note that missing assignments will be automatically scored with half credit.** While this helps maintain accuracy in final grade calculation, it is certainly insufficient for a passing final score. I encourage you to aim to complete most, if not all, assignments – they are designed to help you learn the content more thoroughly and to become expert communicators!

Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the semester, but total point value will not exceed 5% (29 points) of total possible points. This does not include the Service Learning option if available. **All late work and extra credit must be submitted by May 27, 2026 to be considered for credit.**

All assignments must be submitted TYPED – no handwritten papers will be accepted.

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The following grading scale will be applied:

A	90-100 %	522+ points
B	80-89%	464-521
C	70-79%	406-463
D	60-69%	348-405
F	59% or below	347 or below

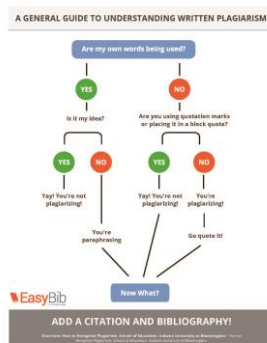
Late Work: There is a lot to cover in this course, and it is important that you keep up with assigned deadlines and due dates. I do however understand that "life happens" and there may be some weeks or instances when you need a little extra time. For this reason, you will have the option to choose ten (10) of the available sixteen (16) weekly discussion posts to respond to - *while I do not accept late discussion posts*, if you miss a week, it doesn't count against you. Each initial post you provide for the discussion is due by Saturday night and your peer responses are both due Mondays. Any discussion forum that you participate in above the required 10 is worth 4pts Extra Credit.

A minimum of 10% will be deducted from all late submissions, with the exclusion of exams and discussions for which there is no late submission accepted. As mentioned previously, I encourage you to communicate early and often with me regarding issues you may experience with deadlines or keeping up with the course. Technology or Internet issues are not excuses for late work; as an online student you are expected to have regular and consistent access to the course site for the duration of the semester. *[This may mean you need to visit the [Academic Computing Center](#) to submit assignments or finish exams, etc.]* Plan ahead and plan accordingly.

A couple of good rules to follow: save your work in a document on your computer in addition to the submission field, and do not wait until the last second to attempt a submission (often everyone else is trying to submit at the same time and the system/site tends to be overwhelmed).

Education Plan: Do You Have an Education Plan? An education plan is essential to completing your education and to ensuring that every class you take counts toward your college graduation and toward getting a job or moving forward with your professional development. If you have not worked out an education plan with a Santa Ana College counselor [contact the counseling office](#) and schedule an appointment. Do it today!

Academic Honesty - Cheating and Plagiarism:



From the current Student Catalog: *“The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension, or expulsion of a student, except for conduct that constitutes sexual harassment under Title IX, which shall be addressed under Interim AR 3425 Title IX (9) Sexual Harassment (Interim).*”

A. Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, lying, or knowingly furnishing false information to the district or a college official performing their duties.”

Limited sanctions include an academic action such as assigning a lower grade or a grade of "F" for the assignment, project, or test. College-wide sanctions include any sanction that will affect a student's standing with the college-at-large, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the college. **I will not give you credit for work that is not your own. This also includes copy/paste from online translators, paraphrasers or AI chatbots.** If you need assistance understanding what constitutes plagiarism I am more than happy to work with you.

When in doubt, cite your source. We will practice using Chicago-Style citations in this history class, a standard for the history discipline.

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Additionally, you are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools. My job is to assess your learning of historical content and production, not your ability to effectively input AI prompts. Remember, **I will not give you credit for work that is not your own.**

Available Support Services (Tutors, Writing Lab): If you require extra academic support at any time throughout the semester, contact me. The SAC Learning Center offers remote tutoring to assist you with your reading and writing skills. See their [webpage](#) for more details. In addition, I am more than happy to help you with supplementary study resources. NetTutor is also available, accessible through our course shell. I will grant 5pts of extra credit with proof of your first (and only the first) visit with a tutor, either through the Learning Center or NetTutor.

Students With Disabilities: Please speak with me directly regarding any special accommodations you require in this course. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are also encouraged to contact [Disabled Students Programs and Services](#) (DSPS) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion (714-564-6295; hours: M-TH 8:00am-5:00pm, F 8:00am-12pm by appointment only). Please meet with DSPS Staff to verify your eligibility for any classroom accommodations and for Academic assistance related to your disability. DSPS is located in the Johnson Student Center, JSC-108.

The Health and Wellness Center offers quality short-term care to support your academic success. Their diverse team provides both in-person and telehealth services, including physical and mental health care; most services are free for currently enrolled Santa Ana College and School of Continuing Education students. To schedule an appointment with a Nurse, Physician, or Psychologist, visit them in Johnson Student Center - 110, or call (714) 564-6216.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-4:30pm and Friday, 8:00am-11:30am.

For after-hours or weekend emergencies:

- 1) Call the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.
- 2) Text COURAGE to 741-741 (Crisis Text Line).
- 3) Contact the OC WarmLine for free emotional support at (714) 991-6412.

Sexual Harassment: [It is the policy of the Rancho Santiago Community College District](#) to provide an educational, employment and business environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment, as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and Federal law. The Rancho Santiago Community College District forbids any form of sexual harassment. Prompt disciplinary action will be taken against any student or employee engaging in sexual harassment. If you feel that you have been the victim of sexual harassment please contact Jennifer De La Rosa, the Deputy Title IX [pronounced "nine"] Coordinator, at (714) 564-6211 / titleix@sac.edu OR if you are the victim of sexual assault call 9-1-1 OR visit the campus Wellness Center.

Students with Undocumented Status: I am an unapologetic and unafraid trained ally to undocumented students and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns about your status or would like guidance toward resources to ensure your success while at Santa Ana College. Check out our [college website dedicated to informing the community about undocumented-related resources \(i.e. AB540, DACA, financial aid, etc.\)](#).

SAC Pride! now has a dedicated faculty liaison as well as a dedicated counselor and a Pride! student space is coming soon too! You can get contact information as well as access to additional resources through the [SAC Pride! home page](#) and you can always ask me for more information as well. I am proud to affirm LGBTQIA2S+ students!



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No Trolls: Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space is a safe and open space, conducive to learning. Respect for yourself, fellow classmates and me, the instructor, is required for lively and productive discussion. Dissenting opinions are not only tolerated, but they are encouraged. “Trollish” behavior, however, in the online environment is not permitted and will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal of remarks, exclusion from discussion(s) or zero points. A troll is defined as someone who deliberately starts quarrels or posts inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic responses to elicit a negative emotional response from a target. We can (and will!) disagree, but let’s do so respectfully.

In Case of Emergency: Download the [Rave Guardian](#) app to easily communicate your whereabouts and other safety concerns with campus staff. In addition, follow directions on text and email notifications sent by the school. For on-campus classes we will review exit or shelter-in-place strategies.

*****This syllabus is subject to change at any time and all currently enrolled students will be updated accordingly.****

Calendar/Schedule of Class Readings, Topics, And Assignments

I have organized our weekly modules on a TUESDAY-MONDAY schedule to allow you maximum use of your weekends, should you need it. Due to the spring break dates, the week after Spring Break is slightly altered from this schedule.

	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT(S) – Quizzes & Initial Discussion Posts due Saturdays /Peer replies/quiz extension due Mondays @ 11:59pm (unless otherwise noted)
What is Latin America?	WEEK 1 Module 1 March 9-16	Introductions Syllabus review What is history? What is Latin America?	Orientation/Syllabus Quiz “‘Latin’ America is Dead. Long Live <i>Nuestra América!</i> ” By Denise Fay Brown Examining the role of media in making & shaping history
	WEEK 2 Module 2 March 17-23	Haitian Revolution 1790-1804	“‘The Insurrection of the Blacks in St. Domingo’: Remembering Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution” by Matthew J. Clavin
Haiti: An Unthinkable History	WEEK 2 Module 3	Haitian Revolution 1790-1804 Cont.	“An Unthinkable History” from <i>Silencing the Past</i> by Michel-Rolph Trouillot READING RESPONSE 1 due MONDAY, MARCH 23
Independence & Liberalism	WEEK 3 Module 4 March 24-30 LAST DAY TO DROP W/OUT ‘W’ 3/25	Latin American Independence/post-colonial Nation building 1800-1900	Chapter 4 “Independence” & Chapter 5 “Postcolonial Blues”, <i>Born in Blood and Fire</i> by John Charles Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz “The Angostura Address” by Simón Bolívar PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 1 due MONDAY, MARCH 30

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Mexico: Land of Sunshine & Shadow	WEEK 3 Module 5	Liberalism in Latin America	Chapter 6 “Progress”, <i>BBF</i> by Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz
	WEEK 4 Module 6 March 31- April 5 <i>TUESDAY HOLIDAY</i> 3/31 	Mexican Revolution 1910-1920	Chapter 8 “Nationalism”, <i>BBF</i> by Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz “The Faces of Rebellion” from <i>The Women’s Revolution in Mexico</i> by Martha Eva Rocha / Activities of Señora Guadalupe Narváez Bautista (p. 20)
	 SMILE! You’ve reached the mid-way point of the semester!  SPRING BREAK APRIL 6-12		
“that infernal little Cuban Republic”	WEEK 5 Modules 7 & 8 April 13-20	Cuban Revolution 1953-1959	Chapter 9 “Revolution”, <i>BBF</i> by Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz (Canvas) Chapters 16, 22, & 29, <i>Waiting for Snow in Havana</i> by Carlos Eire READING RESPONSE 2 due MONDAY, APRIL 20
	WEEK 5 Modules 7 & 8	<i>Fidelismo</i> and U.S. Response	
Central America: El Salvador	WEEK 6 Module 9 April 21-27	Salvadoran Civil War 1980-1992	<i>The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War</i> by Mark Danner, Chapters 1-6 “Program of the Revolutionary Democratic Government, 1980” [FMLN] Danner book quiz (Canvas) Mid-term Exam due MONDAY, APRIL 27
	WEEK 7 Module 10 April 28-May 4	Containing Communism	<i>The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War</i> by Mark Danner, Chapters 7-9 <i>IxocAmarGo</i> - 3 poems Danner book quiz (Canvas) Current Event Presentation Summary/Planning due MONDAY, MAY 4
Spanish South America: Peronism, Allende, & Venezuela’s Economic Miracle	WEEK 8 Module 11 May 5-11	Peronism The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo	“From Ordinary Mothers to Human Rights Activists” by Marguerite Guzman Bouvard / Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo (1980) PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 2 due MONDAY, MAY 11
	WEEK 9 Module 12 May 12-18 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH ‘W’ 5/16	Allende, U.S. interventionism	“Pablo and the other 9/11,” <i>11’09”01 September 11</i> vignette directed by Ken Loach DLA/DOTA completed through the Learning Center due MONDAY, MAY 18

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	WEEK 10 Module 13 May 19-25 <i>MONDAY HOLIDAY</i> 5/25	<i>South of the Border</i> documentary directed by Oliver Stone	Chapter 11 “Neoliberalism and Beyond”, <i>BBF</i> by Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz
Brazil: The Giant of South America	WEEK 10 Module 14 	Military Rule in Latin America	Chapter 10 “Reaction”, <i>BBF</i> by Chasteen <i>BBF</i> quiz CURRENT EVENT PRESENTATION due TUESDAY, MAY 26
	WEEK 11 Module 15 May 26- June 1	The Neoliberal Challenge	“The Landless Rural Workers Movement & Democracy in Brazil” by Miguel Carter ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY/THESIS due MONDAY, JUNE 1
	WEEK 12 Module 16 June 2-7	Puerto Rican Independence Movement 1898-2025 / HIST 151 Final Thoughts	CURRENT EVENT PRESENTATION PEER REVIEW due FRIDAY, JUNE 5 FINAL EXAM due SATURDAY, June 6
*** SAC COMMENCEMENT JUNE 4 / SCC COMMENCEMENT JUNE 5 ***			