Welcome to the undergraduate course Introduction to the History of Latin America and the Caribbean!

This course has no pre-requisites and is taught 100% online via Blackboard. Make sure you have access to Blackboard and that your email address on Blackboard is updated.

To follow the course and complete the assignments you will need to have access to a computer with internet. You will be required to attach files to Blackboard and save files in Word processing program formats. In order to have a pleasant navigation experience, make sure your browser allows pop up windows.

If you have a problem in a lab when completing a quiz, ask the lab assistant to email me so that you will not lose credit. If the Blackboard server does not work, email ugit@howard.edu.

And now, how can I start?

Go to the menu bar on the left to explore the menus providing you with information on the various course requirements and on how to submit your assignments.
- The menu Announcements contains reminders with information about course activities and forthcoming assignments. Check it on a daily basis.
- On the left menu bar read Course policies to know about deadlines for submitting assignments and receiving feedback, online behavior, plagiarism, academic cheating and disabilities act.
- In the menu About the Professor, I introduce myself to you.
- The menu Syllabus displays the syllabus with the course requirements and weekly schedule.
- The menu Course modules leads you to the Weekly contents that provides you with the objectives, contents, readings and other materials for each week of class, including tegrity lectures.
- The menu Discussion Board gives you access to the various forums in which we will discuss together particular topics. In specified weeks, you will have to write up to 200 words on the Discussion Board. Your comments must be based on assigned readings and course materials and written in correct English. Your answers must be submitted until the end of the week: Saturday at 11:59 PM.
- The menu Paper exams (submit here) give you access to the window of Safe Assignment where you will upload the Word file with your midterm and final paper exams. The marking rubrics and the guidelines to write these papers are available in the syllabus. Pay attention to the deadlines (see the syllabus).
- The menu Twitter provides you with the external link to Twitter. Create a twitter account with your last name and a nickname that can identify you. In your profile add a picture of yoursefl and indicate this “Howard University HIST-400 - Spring 2015.” In assigned weeks, you will be requested to tweet on suggested topics. Your tweets must be submitted until the end of the week that finishes every Saturday at 11:59 PM.
- The section Digital Research Paper is where you will post your Digital research paper in the format of a blog entry. This blog entry will contain links, videos, images and a bibliography. See the syllabus for more information.

The menus Improve your Writing, Primary Sources, Chicago Manual of Style give you information to help you writing your two paper exams and digital research paper.
- The menu My Grades gives you access to the grades you received in each assignment. By clicking on the grades you can see your marked assignments with comments, if applicable. Quizzes will be graded within 5 business days after submission. The midterm paper exam, the final exam, and the research paper will be graded within 10 business days after submission. When an assignment is marked, I will post an announcement on Blackboard, which you will receive by email.
- The menu Maps leads you to the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection (University of Texas, Austin), containing various maps of the Americas, Latin America and the Caribbean.
About the Professor

Alignments

I am Dr. Ana Lucia Araujo, Professor of History, in the Department of History. My email is saraajo@howard.edu and my office phone number is 202-806-9365. If you wish, you can meet me in person during my office hours at Douglass Hall, room 316 B on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. I answer my emails from Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

My field of expertise is Brazil and African Diaspora. My published works focus especially on history and memory of slavery and the Atlantic slave trade. You can take a look at my bio and my work on my Howard University's webpage or on my personal website. You can follow my page on Facebook and Twitter as well.
Module 1: Pre-Columbian Latin America and the Caribbean

Learning Objectives:
You will be introduced to the history of Latin America and the Caribbean and will become familiar with the major groups that populated this part of the American continent before the arrival of the Europeans.

Module 2: European conquest

Learning Objectives:
You will understand how the Europeans conquered the native populations and their empires in Latin America and the Caribbean, how they established Iberian empires in the region and how they explored the resources of the new land by introducing enslaved African workforce.

Module 3: Colonization

Learning Objectives:
You will become familiar with the development of European colonization in Latin America and the Caribbean and its various social, economic, and cultural dimensions.

Module 4: Colonial Life

Learning Objectives:
You will understand the living modes of individuals of various classes and racial groups living in colonial Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on how religion and family played an important role in colonial daily life.

Module 5: Rise and Fall of Iberian empires in Latin America and the Caribbean

Learning Objectives:
You will understand the main challenges posed by the expansion of Iberian empires and how the colonial order started being disrupted toward the end of the eighteenth century, in a movement that eventually led to the independences.
WEEK 1 (January 12 - 17): What is Latin America?