

Survey of Latin American Historiography
Fall 2023: Essay Examination

December 18, 2022

Please answer **TWO** of the questions from below. Your answers should be in essay form. Each essay should make a clear, coherent, and persuasive argument that is supported with specific historical evidence and/or discussions of differing historiographical interpretations.

You have eight hours (from 9am to 5pm) to write your essays and submit them as e-mail attachments to Marilyn Weber (mweber@gc.cuny.edu).

1. When examining economic structures in colonial Latin America (including Brazil, of course) historians have focused upon export economies and how these changed over time in response to external market conditions, shifts in internal labor supplies, the availability of credit, and many more factors.

Yet, there was the development of internal economies with various degrees of connection to export sectors, and these may have been more important to peoples across this vast region in their daily lives over the three centuries of colonial rule.

Discuss. Pay particular attention to differences in geographical space and changes over time.

2. The evolution of diverse racial structures in the various regions of Latin America and the Caribbean was central to understanding the colonial history of this vast and differentiated area. Indigenous demography, the shifts in the volume and direction of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, European migration, the degree of race mixture, the survival of indigenous communities and migration away from them, are some factors which shaped the evolution of race/ethnicity across the region. However, each area had a very different history. Discuss.
3. For conquerors and then colonizers the organization of labor was central to colonial economic systems. From *encomienda*, to *repartimiento/mita*, to free labor, and slavery, changing labor systems resulted from demographic, economic, and institutional factors which varied enormously across space and time. Discuss.
4. Latin America and the Caribbean experienced extraordinary changes during the 18th century, which eventually led to a break with Iberian colonialism in the early 19th century. Independence has been interpreted as a response to the 'Bourbon' reforms in the Spanish colonies and the Pombaline reforms in Brazil. Discuss the changes implemented in the region by the Spanish and Portuguese Crowns and evaluate the relationship between independence and these reformist policies.