

May 2002

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Department of History

Senior Comprehensive Exams

LATIN AMERICA

Please answer each question separately. Your answer to each question must not exceed five double-spaced typewritten pages. On the cover of each answer be certain to indicate your name, the appropriate comprehensive field (i.e., The United States, The United Kingdom), as well as the number of the question you have answered. Your answer should be written in your own words and include the correct citations for any sources you use, as in any paper or final exercise. Be sure to include at the end of your essay the statement "This represents my own work in accordance with University regulations" and sign your name.

All answers must be turned in at the History Department office by 3:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th. There will be no extensions. For further explanation of the Grading of Departmental Comprehensive Exams, see page 5 of "Information for Majors."

Answer ONE question from Part I and ONE question from Part II. Give examples and illustrate your answers, as far as possible, with clear references to any authorities you have consulted.

PART I

1. Iberians did not "remake" the areas of America in which they came to settle and rule, but rather were forced to adapt to what was already there. Respond to this statement as you see fit, and with specific examples.
2. Why were central Mexico and Peru the major foci of Spanish settlement in the Americas in the sixteenth century?
3. Assess the importance of racial mixture in the evolution of colonial Latin American society. Discuss at least two regions.

continued on next page

4. It has been said that in their thoughts and actions, Creoles - people of European descent born in the Americas - were searching for "new historical narratives" in the eighteenth century. If you agree, discuss two of the most significant new narratives. If you disagree, explain why.

PART II

5. Compare the processes of independence in Spanish and Portuguese America and the extent to which these embodied social, political, or economic transformation.
6. What shaped the lives of Latin Americans in the nineteenth century: ideas or economic forces? Compare two societies.
7. Explore the causes and reasons for success of two of the following modern revolutions: Haiti (1791), Mexico (1910), Cuba (1959), and Nicaragua (1979).
8. Analyze the rise and fall of two of the following governments and their efforts to redistribute wealth: Arbenz's Guatemala, Peron's Argentina, Allende's Chile.