Course Objective:

The objective is to trace the course of Latin American history and identify its key characteristics in order that the student may be able to relate and understand better the present economic and political problems and issues confronting the countries of the region. Latin American intellectual thought and ideas are discussed to help the student have better analysis and trace developments in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Particular countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile are discussed to illustrate more general features of South America and Caribbean countries are briefly discussed to highlight their unique history and issues.

1. Land and People
   - Geography
   - The Indian, Iberian, and African Background
   - Conceptualising Latin American ‘peoples’: Jose Vasconcelos; Jose Marti; Enrique Rodo

2. Discovery and Conquest
   - Spanish colonisation
   - Portuguese colonisation
3. **Resource Endowments and Its Impact**

   - Debates on development
   - Commodities consensus and resource extractivism

4. **Independence and Nationalism**

   - Precursors of independence movements
   - Wars of Independence
   - Ideas in Latin American Independence

5. **South America since 1930s**

   - **Argentina**: The Juan Manuel de Rosas Era; Peron and Peronism; Post-1950 Developments
   - **Brazil**: Getulio Vargas Era; the Second Republic; Post 1960 developments
   - **Chile**: Parliamentary Rule; Popular Unity

6. **Caribbean since 1960s**

   - Trinidad and Tobago
   - Guyana; and Suriname

7. **Latin America and the United States**

   - The Monroe Doctrine; 'Good Neighbour’ Policy
   - Cold War era
   - Post-Cold War period and recent Inter-American Relations

8. **Latin America and India**

   Historical relations
   Caribbean states and India

**Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of the course, students should understand the diversity and complexity of Latin American cultures and peoples in the backdrop of their history of colonial conquest and independence movements. They should be able to relate the Latin American political concepts such as machismo and populism with the developments in the twentieth century. Students should
also be able to understand historical relations of Latin American countries with United States and with India.

Select Readings

Theme 1: Geography and People


Theme 2: Discovery and Conquest


Theme 3: Latin American Resource Endowments and Its Impact


Theme 4: Independence and Nationalism: Ideas in Latin American History

Theme 5: South America since 1930s: Argentina, Brazil, Chile


Theme 5: Caribbean since 1960s: Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

1. Eric Williams (1964), History of the People of Trinidad and Tobago, London: Andre Deutsch.

Theme 6: Latin America and the United States


Theme 7: Latin America and India

3. Recent writings