Latin America's colonial experience left a deep and enduring mark on the region. This introductory course surveys major developments and themes from Latin America's indigenous and Iberian colonial past (1400-1820), by drawing on the 'social history' of core societies like Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. This long period of collision between European and American society is rife with heady topics: imperialism, conquest, culture clash, resistance, slavery, race, and revolt. We assess them with an historian's eye.