This class is a lot like a sampler platter where you get to taste small portions of a variety of dishes. In this case, the range of samples comes from roughly 500 years of Latin American history, which covers from post-1492 encounters between Europeans and Americans up to the present, in a huge geographic region, which spans two continents and the Caribbean. Among the questions we’ll explore together:

**Colonial Latin America**
- How different were the European and American cultures that first encountered each other in 1492?
- Was there a conquest and, if so, what did that mean?
- What sorts of societies were created in this “New World”?
- Did the reforms and revolts of the late eighteenth-century mark a turning point in the history of the Americas?
- How did independence come to the nations of Latin America, and why did it come when it did?

**Post-Independence Latin America**
- What were the major obstacles to creating new nations?
- How important was slavery to American economies and why did it finally come to an end?
- In what ways did urbanization and immigration change Latin American societies?
- How has the U.S. been involved in Latin America and what have been the repercussions?
- How has globalization changed Latin America?