Hist 279: The Age of Independence in Latin America

Most regions of Latin America gained their independence from Spain or Portugal during the early nineteenth century, but were these political transformations accompanied by equally great social, economic, or cultural change? This course explores both of these areas. It asks how independence came to different regions of Latin America, who supported and who opposed it, who was willing to (or forced to) take up arms in the struggles, and why the process of independence could look so different from place to place. The other side of the course examines what it meant to live in the decades surrounding these tumultuous events. Using the first Latin American novel, *The Mangy Parrot*, as a guide, we look at how education, religious practice, family life, and membership in society may or may not have been changing.