

# COURSE DETAIL

## INDIGENOUS AMERICAS, COLONIALISM, AND GLOBALIZATION

**Country**

Italy

**Host Institution**

University of Bologna

**Program(s)**

University of Bologna

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

History Anthropology

**UCEAP Course Number**

152

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

INDIGENOUS AMERICAS, COLONIALISM, AND GLOBALIZATION

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

INDIGENOUS AMERICAS

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale degree program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrollment is by permission of the instructor. By the end of the course, students are aware of the political, economic, and cultural dimensions of the European colonization of America and of its relationship with the early modern globalization. Students will be able to recognize the active role played by indigenous groups and individuals in the shaping of the emerging global world. At the end of the course, the student is able to contextualize the European conquest of America within a global historical and cultural framework, as well as to independently engage in the critical analysis of historical sources and early modern ethnographic records. The students are also able to deploy such analytical skills to professional activities linked with the popularization and public use of historical and anthropological knowledge. This course examines the cultural processes that unfolded during the European colonization of the Americas and their role in fostering Early Modern globalization. A special attention is devoted to the Mesoamerican cultural area.

Week 1 introduces the course and provides an overview of the European colonization of the Americas. Week 2 examines the impact of the conquest on early modern globalization, focusing on phenomena such as the Columbian Exchange, the international trade of American resources and the transatlantic slave trade. It also introduces Mesoamerica as a cultural area and, more specifically, the Late Postclassic Nahua world. Week 3 describes the Conquest of Mesoamerica and the political and economic structures of New Spain. One session this week is dedicated to a collective discussion of selected articles and book chapters provided by the instructor. Week 4 addresses the so-called "spiritual conquest", the emergence of *mestizaje* across social and cultural domains, and the epistemological dimensions of colonialism, which at the same time extracts and downplays local indigenous knowledge. Week 5 considers the role of missionary-ethnographers like Bernardino de Sahagún, the colonial origins of anthropological practices, and early modern conceptions of human difference as a formative stage in the development of racism and coloniality.

**Language(s) of Instruction**

English

**Host Institution Course Number**

B4822

**Host Institution Course Title**

INDIGENOUS AMERICAS, COLONIALISM, AND GLOBALIZATION (1) (LM)

**Host Institution Course Details**

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

**Host Institution Campus**

BOLOGNA

**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree**

LM in GLOBAL CULTURES

**Host Institution Department**

History and Cultures

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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