Based on readings of Latin American nineteenth century history, there are four connected topics we want to explore:

1. The formation of national boundaries. How did the geography of the pre-Columbian Empires and the colonial Viceroyalties evolve into nation-states?
2. What was the economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental impact of these processes?
3. What are the longterm outcomes of these historical processes?
4. Where is Latin America positioned vis a vis the rest of the world? How unique (or not) is the Latin American historical experience?

Our Readings:
- Vera M. Kutzinski, Ottmar Ette, Laura Dassow Walls (eds.), Alexander von Humboldt and the Americas (2012)
- Ronald M. Schneider, Latin American Political History (2007), pp. 1-206
- Julio Ramos, Divergent Modernities (2001)

Evaluation:
Mid-Term Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 35%
Research Paper: 40% (topic and additional readings/research materials to be discussed during office hours). Take a region/country and answer the three main questions of this class (see above).