

## **Christopher Columbus: Hero, Villain, . . . or Saint?**

### **Course Description**

Excerpts from Columbus' writings to be provided as touchstones for discussion (in Spanish)

### **Weekly Layout:**

Columbus' letter (2/15/1493) to Finance Minister (Luis de Santángel) containing a description his discoveries per his first transatlantic voyage.

An excerpt from Columbus' Diario (his log) covering events from 8/3/1492 to 3/15/1493. How did Columbus perceive the indigenous peoples whom he encountered on the islands of what we know as the Caribbean?

Another excerpt from Columbus' Diario (his log) in which Columbus presents his proposals for ongoing transatlantic voyages. How did he characterize his objectives?

A discussion of Columbus' motives in arguing for ongoing voyages to what was a hitherto unknown world (he continued to think that he reached the eastern fringes of Asia).

Excerpts of 19th century documents (some in English) that exalt Columbus not only as a hero but even as a saint (responsible for the "Christianization" of the New World), leading to an eruption of monument-building in the U.S. Discussion will focus upon how Columbus should be honored today, that is, of what kind of honor is he deserving.