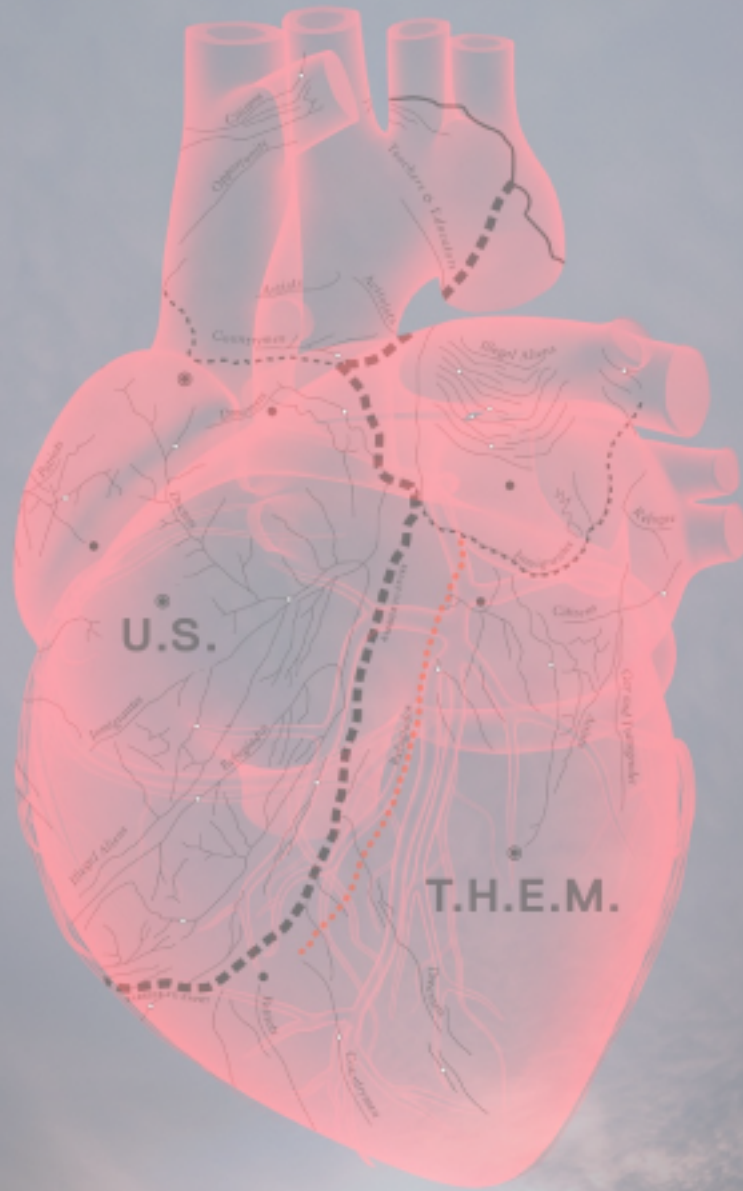


BORDERS OF LATIN AMERICA

COLT/SPAN 375: Latin American Cultural and Literary Theory
Fall 2020: Tuesday / Thursday, 3:30pm - 4:50pm PST



This course will introduce students to a wide range of texts, media, and theoretical frameworks from the Latin American Cultural and literary studies field, brought together through the theme of borders. We'll begin at the U.S.-Mexico border, and explore histories of migration, labor, and state violence cemented in the border space; we'll discuss the larger migrant trail down to Central America, thinking about the trauma that migrants-refugees are attempting to leave behind and the testimonios they bring up with them. The Caribbean will be another focal point for the course: we will look to the Haiti-Dominican Republic border to explore questions of race; we'll also discuss Puerto Rico's liminal status as a Latin American U.S. territory. Towards the end of the course we will think about Latin America in a more global context, delving into Latin American popular culture in the digital age, and asking: what borders remain standing today around Latin America and Latin Americanist work? To this end, we will engage intellectuals, writers, and artists—from within and outside Latin America—whose work explores key themes in the Latin American cultural and literary studies field, such as memory and mourning, neoliberal and gendered violence, and the politics of testimonio. We will discuss work by Jason De Leon, Jean Franco, Rigoberta Menchú, John Beverley, Teresa Margolles, Edwidge Danticat, Raquel Salas Rivera, Diana Taylor, Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado—among many others. Assignments will include reading responses, multimedia projects, and in-class presentations. The course is structured as an open-ended conversation, with ample opportunities for students to bring in their own personal and disciplinary interests to our discussion through blog posts, in-class presentations and projects.

*Image: Alejandro Iñárritu, CARNE y ARENA
(Virtually present/Physically invisible). 2017.*

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