



COLT 250g

Cultures of Latin America

Professor Brenno Kaneyasu Maranhao

Spring 2021 Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00 PM - 1:50 PM

This course explores the hybrid makeup of culture in Latin America by focusing on the crucial interplay between the indigenous and the “foreign” – European, African, North American – in writings and images of the region. We will pose several questions about Latin America which we will then seek to answer through the comparative analysis of literary, visual and material works – fiction, poetry, painting, architecture, and film – from various periods and parts of the world. What do these works say about culture in Latin America, or about its diverse cultures? To what extent do they construct Latin America as a peripheral cultural entity or as a part of the West? How do Latin Americans represent themselves, or represent others, and how do others represent Latin Americans? How is cultural production from, or about, Latin America read or viewed around the world? And, equally important, what happens if we downplay the specificity of Latin America when thinking, speaking and writing about the region and its cultures – and focus instead on Latin America’s commonality with the rest of the world and on Latin Americans simply as any other human beings?

We will discuss literary works by Jorge Luis Borges, Machado de Assis, William Shakespeare, José Martí, Clarice Lispector, Gabriel García Marquez, among others, as well as films by Alejandro González Iñárritu, Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, and Nelson Pereira dos Santos.