



# COLT 250g: Cultures of Latin America

MW 12-1:20pm | Professor Nivar Ortiz | [nivar@usc.edu](mailto:nivar@usc.edu)

In this course we will explore the complicated geo-political contours of Latin America through the lens of its hybrid cultures. Latin America's cultural hybridity hinges on the violent interplay between the categories of the "indigenous" and the "foreign." Thus, we will consider how the European conquest, the transatlantic slave trade, and the more recent history of U.S. imperialism have irrevocably impacted not only the ethnic and political landscape of Latin America, but also the region's cultural history. To better understand these on-going processes, we will undertake a comparative analysis of Latin American literature, art, and film from the pre-conquest period into today—works from and about Latin America. We will discuss works by writers, artists, and thinkers such as Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Jorge Luis Borges, Gabriel García Márquez, Clarice Lispector, Jose Martí, Rigoberta Menchú, Alejo Carpentier, Edwidge Dandicat, Valeria Luiselli, among others. Readings, assignments, and class discussions will be completed in English.