

**Latin American Popular Culture: Globalization, Migration, and Ethnic Relations**

Latin America has been shaped over its long history by a myriad of cultural interactions. This has only intensified in the second half of the twentieth century to the present day. In relation to globalization, Latin American communities have manifested important and unique cultural processes, many of which involve migration and ethnic relations.

In this seminar, we will study how Latin-American popular culture is shaped by global flows that impact the modes by which these unique and diverse forms of cultural production are created, reproduced, negotiated, and consumed. We will develop some background and context in the field through the study of some foundational texts and begin to understand important issues related to cultural products and their points of contact (identity, migration, intersectional struggles, etc.). Then, we will analyze certain areas of popular cultural influence with relevant case studies, divided by genre. This categorization will serve to highlight key popular cultural expressions and their processes, as well as their relation back to the conceptual framework of the course.

This course will be taught in English and cross-listed through the graduate programs in Comparative Literature and Culture and Migration and Ethnic Relations. There will also be a discussion session held in Spanish and conducted principally for those in the Hispanic Studies graduate program.

**I. Background and Context**

Foundational Texts

	English	Español
1. Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart	<i>How to read Donald Duck: Imperialist Ideology in the Disney Comic</i>	<i>Para leer el Pato Donald: Comunicación de masa y colonialismo</i> (1971)
2. Jesús Martín Barbero	<i>Communication, Culture, and Hegemony: From the Media to Mediations</i>	<i>De los medios a las mediaciones: Comunicación, cultura y hegemonía</i> (1987)
3. Néstor García Canclini	<i>Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity</i>	<i>Culturas híbridas. Estrategias para entrar y salir de la modernidad</i> (1990)

MER/CLC Students	HS Students
4. <i>Memory and Modernity: Popular Culture in Latin America</i> (1991)	4. <i>Global-local: Democracia, memoria, identidades</i> (2002)

5. *Understanding Contemporary Brazil* (2019)

## **II. Case Studies**

6. Language: The Politics of Language – From Colonization to Globalization. RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL OUTLINE W/ BIBLIOGRAPHY.
7. Literature: The National Hispanic Cultural Center’s Latinx Book Club Selections (2021).
8. Fashion: The “Secular Saints” Frida Kahlo, Carlos Gardel, Eva Perón, and Selena. LITERARY BOOK REVIEW ESSAY.
9. Film: Youth Movies, Cinema, and Music – Mexico, Argentina, Brazil.
10. Music: Reggaeton: Central America, the Pan-Caribbean, and the World.
11. Sports: Pelé – Brazilian Soccer, Autobiography (2007), Feature Film (2016), and Documentary (2021).
12. DETAILED RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL W/ ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.
13. PRESENTATIONS.

## **Course Evaluations**

Response Papers (25%) – Weekly w/ rubric.

Literary Book Review Essay (25%) – [Week 8].

Research Project (25%):

-Research Project Proposal Outline w/ bibliography – [Week 6];

-Detailed Research Project Proposal w/ annotated bibliography – [Week 12];

-Presentation – [Week 13].

Participation in Class (25%) – Weekly w/ rubric