

## US/Canadian Latin@/x Literature and Culture

In this course we will observe and study a wide range of culture artifacts through the lens of a persistent question mark in the context of American and Canadian culture. Our objective, appropriately speaking, is to consider the “panic” in Hispanic, the “Mexican” in Mexican American, the “Spic,” the Xican@, the Boricua, the Pan-Latin@, the Latinocanadian, and everything in between, as imagined for us in and around mainstream visual representation as well as in US/Canadian Latinx literary production. We will follow a loose historical chain of events, but always with a keen interest in the mining of meaning behind those walking stereotypes and models of identity speaking to us from across the page, stage and screen. From the lusty and blood-thirsty imaginaries of Manifest Destiny, to a type of coming-of-age in the aftermath of the Second World War; from the arid/wet spaces of the borderlands to the *huelga* fields of *el movimiento*; from the streets of the inner-city to the hellish landscapes of the future; we will critically engage with the ways in which the Latin@, or the Latinx, has been “incorporated” into the national cultural fold, as well as with the ways in which the Latin@/x has sometimes managed to crash that party, making us question, in the process, the national currencies at the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and citizenship.