José María Arguedas: Literature, Music, and Migration

Peruvian writer José María Arguedas (1911-1969) skillfully weaves together literary artistic creation with essential realities of Andean environment, folklore, and society. As a writer of short stories, essays, novels, and poetry and a trained anthropologist, Arguedas frequently focused on music as an important cultural expression linked to the vitality of nature and environmental activism, cultural resistance and struggle, as well as an enduring source of indigenous and *mestizo* (mixed) identities. Furthermore, Arguedas wrote at a time of rapid modernization, urbanization, and migration in Peru; historical divisions between the *sierra* (highlands) and the *costa* (coast) were brought to the foreground of national debates related to issues of linguistic alienation, cultural dislocation, and migration in a diverse corpus of writings by Arguedas. Our primary source readings will be completed by extensive secondary sources from a variety of perspectives. Graduate students will be assisted in developing essay-length research projects on related topics.



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