

## New and special topics courses in Spanish and Portuguese for 2020-2021

In addition to our regular offerings, we are happy to share the course descriptions for new and special topics courses offered this academic year. These courses count for the Spanish minor and the Hispanic Studies major (newly revised). If you have questions about a specific course, feel free to email the professor teaching the course.

### Block 1

**SP316. Cultura y literatura afrolatinoamericana.** ¿Cuál es el rol de la literatura y cultura afro-latinoamericana en el siglo XX? ¿Qué cuentan las manifestaciones culturales, incluidas la música y las representaciones artísticas? En este curso responderemos a estas y otras preguntas relacionadas con la cultura afro-latinoamericana. Estudiaremos los desafíos de la literatura afro-latinoamericana y cómo ha tratado de de-construir literaturas canónicas en Latinoamérica. De allí a que escritores y cantautores afro-latinoamericanos hagan uso de la noción descolonización, ya sea para confrontarla, contrarrestarla o analizarla. Ahondaremos en las lecturas, literaturas y culturas afro-latinoamericanas en Paraguay, Colombia y Venezuela. Leeremos poesía y narrativa escrita por Lilia Ferrer de Venezuela, Virginia Brindis de Salas y Cristina Cabral de Uruguay, Ashanti Herrera y Manuel Zapata Olivella de Colombia. Analizaremos cómo la música afro-latinoamericana cuenta una nueva historia de estos países y cómo se convierte en un instrumento oral y narrativo que de-construye la historia nacional generando una contranarrativa. **Prerequisite: SP306.** Professor: Ángela Castro

### Block 3

**SP312. Maya literature, culture, and history.** The course will trace key characteristics of Mayan cultural productions in Central America and Mexico, with a focus on contemporary expressions. We'll explore the region's colonial past and its legacy in the present, focusing on its extractive nature, the ongoing exploitation of Maya people through processes of racialization, and the current interaction of culture and tourism. We will also explore the complex interactions of indigenous, national, and regional identity. **Prerequisite: SP201** (SP304 or SP305 preferred). Professor: Andreea Marinescu

### Block 4

**SP370. Genre Studies: Contemporary Spanish Film.** This course focuses on the analysis of cinematographic production in Spain in the last 25 years. By examining Spanish film, students will acquire an informed and critical perspective on contemporary Spanish society. At the same time, students will explore if there is a uniquely Spanish aesthetic of understanding, perceiving, and representing the world. Thus, filmic production will be addressed as a means to explore important questions related to contemporary Spanish society, such as immigration, historical memory, and sexuality, and as an artistic means to explore notions of collective identity, the self, and one's position in the universe. Students will study significant films by key directors such as Pedro Almodóvar, Julio Medem, Alejandro Amenábar, Icíar Bollaín, and Isabel Coixet among others. Aside from the films, our discussions will be informed by relevant historical and cultural readings, fundamental cinematic concepts, and critical theory in order to contextualize the filmic productions. **Prerequisite: SP 306.** Professor: Carrie Ruiz

### Half block

**PG199. Brazilian Music and Language.** This course will introduce students to some of the musical traditions of twentieth and twenty-first century Brazil as well as basic communication in Portuguese language. Students will explore traditions such as forró, samba, bossa nova, tropicália, MPB, sertaneja, batucada, funk, among others. Course may be taught in Portuguese depending on enrollment and prior language experience of students. **No prerequisites.** .5 unit. Professor: Naomi Wood.

## Block 5

**SP350. Transatlantic Studies: Networks of Domination and Resistance.** This course will explore cultural expression from a comparative focus on the Iberian Peninsula, the Americas and/or Africa. The aim is to move beyond the north-south, east-west divisions and challenge nationalistic narratives and instead privilege a critical, transnational, and comparativist reconstruction of Atlantic archives. Texts, expressive forms, regions and time periods under study will vary depending on instructor. May be repeated once for elective credit with a different instructor and topic. **Prerequisite: SP 306.** Professor: Andreea Marinescu

**PG300. Portuguese for Spanish-speakers.** This course is designed for students who are either native speakers of Spanish or those who have studied Spanish or another Romance Language through the intermediate level. This course will rely upon the linguistic skills attained by Spanish-speakers/Romance-language speakers to introduce grammatical structures and vocabulary at an accelerated pace. The focus of the course will be on communication within Brazilian Portuguese including speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Using a communicative and context-based methodology this course will take students through the intermediate level of Portuguese and prepare them for more advanced language study. **Prerequisite: PG101, SP201, placement into SP305 or COI.** Professor: Naomi Wood

## Block 6

### **SP316. Melodrama and Self Representation in Contemporary Latin America.**

Since its origins as a sentimental street theater form, melodrama has made available to its audiences emotion-based plots for the interpretation of everyday life. Melodrama has provided not only formulaic entertainment, but also strategies for the expression of popular and emergent cultures, challenging established traditions. With the goal of understanding the links between melodrama, theories of emotions, and the subjective turn in the 1970s in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, El Salvador, México, and Perú, we will analyze postmodern and contemporary Latin American movies, documentaries, music, TV shows, and works of fiction and non-fiction. **Prerequisite: SP 306.** Professor: José Miguel Herbozo Duarte

**PG308. Culture and Languages Across the Curriculum in Portuguese.** This course will focus on translation studies. Students will work with a variety of genres: essay, poetry, short story, news articles to prepare a dossier of translations from/to: Portuguese to Spanish, English or German, depending on student's prior experience. This course will also introduce students to theories of translation studies. **Prerequisite: PG300.** Professor: Jess Oliveira.

## Block 8

**SP316. Figures of Motherhood in Latin America and the Southwest.** This course examines cultural representations of motherhood in Latin America and the US Southwest. We will engage with a range of maternal figures, from pre-colonial female deities (such as Coatlicue and Pachamama), to mothers and Catholic Virgins during the Spanish colonization of the Americas (such as the Virgen de Guadalupe and other "national" Virgins), to contemporary figures such as the Madres de Plaza de Mayo (the mothers of the disappeared during Argentina's military dictatorship). In addition to literary and filmic texts, we will make extensive use of the FAC Museum collection. Through the interdisciplinary examination of a wide range of artistic representations of motherhood, the course aims to understand motherhood as an organizing principle around racial, gender, sexual, and political norms – and the transgression of those norms. **Prerequisite: SP 306.** Professor: Andreea Marinescu