

Cultures of Latin America

COLT 250g, Class #22012R, Fall 2008, Tues & Thurs, 11:00-12:20, THH 101
Select One Discussion Section: Mon at 9 or 10 or Fri at 9, 10, 11, or 12



Miguel Cabrera, "De español y albina, torna atrás" (1763)

This course explores the heterogeneous makeup of culture in Latin America, with a special focus on the interaction between indigenous and “foreign”—often European, but also African and North American—elements throughout the region. By drawing mostly on literature, but also on cultural theory, history, film, opera, and painting, the course investigates some of the main questions that surround the cultural “construction” of Latin America. What do literature and the other arts say about Latin America? How do others represent Latin America, and how do Latin Americans represent themselves? What, if any, are the distinctive properties of Latin American cultures? How do Latin American texts interact with those from other parts of the world? We will concentrate on various themes from colonial times to the present, including the rise of the baroque in viceregal New Spain, the debates about culture and nation in nineteenth-century Argentina, and the cultural dimensions of the Cuban Revolution. Readings may include texts by Borges, Carpentier, Fuentes, Isherwood, Martí, Menchú, Neruda, Prescott, Shakespeare, Sor Juana, and others.

General Education: This is a Category II Global Cultures and Traditions Course.

COLT L/M/CT Track: This is a Literature Concentration Course.

Global Cultures: This course is an option for the Global Cultures Track of the COLT Minor.

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