

Fall 2016 - Spanish Graduate Courses

ROSP 63891 – US Latino/a Literatures and Cultures

T 3:30-6:15pm

M. Moreno

The presence of Latinos/as has had an enormous impact on the American socio-cultural landscape. From music, to literature, film, sports, and politics, Latinos/as are constantly reshaping and forcing us to question what it means to be American. At the same time, US Latino/a cultural production has challenged, questioned, and revised the histories and conditions of their countries of origin that led to massive migrations to the U.S. This course will examine how these ideas are reflected in literary and cultural texts by U.S. Latino/a authors of Mexican, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and Peruvian descent. Works by both canonical authors (such as Junot Diaz's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*) and emerging ones (Fred Arroyo's *Western Avenue and Other Fictions*) will allow students to gain insight into the local and national Latino communities. Issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, transnationalism, and migration will be central to our discussions. Readings from the fields of history, anthropology, sociology, cultural theory, race, and postcolonial theory will provide a solid context before embarking on the literary analysis of the chosen works. This course will be taught in English.

ROSP 63903 – Walter Benjamin and Latin America.

R 3:30-6:15pm

C. Jauregui

This seminar will introduce W. Benjamin as a critic of literature, culture and history and, particularly, it will explore in some detail what could be described as his "materialistic theology" and his critique of historicism and progress. This course is meant to offer a critical understanding of concepts such as defeat, redemption, remembrance, dialectic image, profane illumination, rupture, weak messianic power, political acedia, tradition of the oppressed, and so on. We will also address Benjamin's critique of historical and political contextualism and his proposal of reading history against the grain and to rob texts from the hands of the historians who sing praises to the present. Finally, we will survey the reception of Walter Benjamin heterodox Marxism in Latin America, and will attempt specific case studies where Benjamin's critical and theoretical thought could be articulated to specific research projects related to Latin American cultural history. This seminar should result in a preliminary scholarly article with enough quality to be submitted to a peer review publication or to be easily turned into a chapter of an ongoing dissertation.

ROSP 63902 – Violence, Impunity and Human Rights on the Literatures of Central America and the Hispanic Caribbean

W 12:30-3:15pm

T. Anderson

In this course we will focus on the themes of Violence, Impunity and Human Rights in the Literatures of Central America and the Hispanic Caribbean. For each class students will read literary texts and related secondary and theoretical readings that deal specifically with human rights issues such as torture, poverty, economic exploitation, women's and children's rights, racism, religious and cultural oppression, etc. Students will also be required to watch approximately 10 films, all of which will be directly related to the readings.