This course, taught in Spanish, studies the political discourse and cross-cultural production of both the Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries (Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Diaspora in the United States) and the countries encompassed by the term “Southern Cone” (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay). We will conduct historical inquiry into colonialism, nationalism, race, and gender through the mediums of literature, essay, music, film, (and a little bit of gastronomic culture). Based on careful study of the course readings, and on class discussions, this class provides a venue for the exploration of new information—as well as previous (mis)conceptions—about the cultures and peoples of the Caribbean and the Southern Cone. Although we will take a historical approach, our primary focus will be on the contemporary period, and we will cover a wide range of topics from dictatorship and memory to immigration and national identity.

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the cultural, political, and social developments of the regions studied. Students will be able to connect these developments with national and international structures of power and to assess the capacity of culture to support and/or resist these structures. We also aim at assessing the advantages and limitations of the interdisciplinary field of cultural studies for the understanding and critical analysis of society and culture in Latin America. Students will be asked to express this knowledge in class discussions and through expository and analytical writing in activities, papers and exams required for the course.

SPAN 345-001 (2233)
MoTuWeThFr 11:30-1:00 pm
Prof. Juan Carlos González Espitia