

## **RELI 246: Supernatural Encounters: Zombies, Vampires, Demons, and the Occult in the Americas**



This course takes advantage of the general popularity and public fascination with zombies, vampires, demons, ghosts, and other supernatural entities. Using a critical framework, students will consider examples of these phenomena in the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America, and connect them to larger issues of ethnocentrism, culture contact, imperialism, modernity, and rapid social change. Rather than dismiss tales of the supernatural as merely superstition, this course aims to understand these beliefs as ways of making sense of the world in the midst of uprooting, uneven, and frequently unsettling processes of modernization, neoliberalism, and globalization. This course makes use of a variety of sources from anthropology, history, folklore, and political economy and invites students to reflect critically upon the varied social, cultural, and historical contexts of supernatural encounters in the Americas.

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Maymester  
Mon-Fri  
1:15PM-4:30PM

**General Education  
Requirements: Fulfills  
SS, GL**

