

SPAN 361

Indigenous and Afro-Latinx Experiences in The Americas

(VP- Visual or Performing Arts / GL- Global Issues)

Maymester May 13 – 29

Dey Hall 104

M - F: 9:00am—12:15pm

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This course will explore the Indigenous and Afro-Latinx experiences in the Americas by critically examining a number of contemporary films, documentaries, essays, poetry and short stories. Our primary goal is to challenge traditional ideas that tie or root Indigenous and Afro-Latinx Peoples to a specific geopolitical space. By recognizing the Westernized (settler) colonial origins of today's postcolonial societies, we will use "border crossing" as a literal and figurative metaphor in order to address the following questions: What are the cultural and political implications of border crossing for Indigenous and Afro-Latinx subjects in a "globalized" world? What are the consequences of leaving "home" behind for reasons related to migration, exile, forced displacement and diaspora? How does crossing a literal or figurative border "change" or "shape" Indigenous and Afro-Latinx identities? What are the challenges and processes of (re)territorialization that Indigenous and Afro-Latinx Peoples face in settled colonial geopolitical spaces? We will critically examine the idea of the "border" in various geopolitical contexts in the Americas, and its various figurative and cultural manifestations.

