

SPAN 3800. CREATIONS OF THE GLOBAL. GLOBAL AWARENESS AND GLOBALIZATION IN LATIN AMERICAN CULTURES

Of all the words created in the last fifty years, “Globalization” is perhaps the new word most frequently used in the media and politics, but it is also perhaps the most imprecisely used of all neologisms. What do they mean when they say “globalization”? What is the difference with other terms of the global, such as “globalism,” “global awareness,” or “global citizenship? The aim of this course is to study those global notions through the analysis of Latin American cultural productions, from novels and films to video games.

Today the human species faces many challenges that cannot be solved by any single country on Earth. From global warming to the catastrophic decline of animal species and the new rise of nationalisms, none of those problems can be successfully faced without knowing first the possibilities (and the limits) of a global-focused approach. To achieve this goal, this course wants to take advantage of the fact that after the massive intercultural clash that began on October 12, 1492, Latin America became a region that accumulates today more than five hundred years of experience in different phenomena associated with globalization, such as syncretism and multiculturalism, as well as in the social, economic, and political consequences of the globalizing process itself. That experience can provide us with multiple lessons and tools that can help us to better understand the challenges of our own present, so we can confront them effectively.