

### **Course Description**

In this course we will explore two dimensions of conspiracy theory and its relationship to literature. On the one hand, we will look at it as a model of political explanation; on the other, we will examine its artistic components. The two aspects constantly intersect, as the figures and themes of conspiracy theory are almost consubstantial to certain literary traditions: the secret agent, the spy, the double agent, the paranoid, the provocateur, the secret, the simulacrum, the oath, the confraternity --just to list a few of the themes that shape conspiratorial fictions.

By reading short stories, novels, and essays, we will analyze the weight that the conspiratorial fiction has had in contemporary Latin American literature, and how it serves to express the political and social conflicts in different areas of the continent. We will see its relationship with forms of domination by the elites, and with forms of resistance by marginalized groups; as well as its role in the configuration of subjectivities and gender expressions in Latin American cultural traditions. The course combines literary analysis with political philosophy, cultural studies, gender studies, and psychoanalysis --offering multiple reading models and perspectives of analysis.

### **Class Structure for Fall 2022**

In-Person Sessions Planned

### **Out-of-class Activities:**

- This class requires 6 weekly hours of reading out of the classroom.
- Each week students should write a short post in the course discussion forum in Canvas. It will usually consist of a short question on a topic that we did not get to develop in depth during class.
- With each assigned reading, there are sets of questions for students to answer. They must do it before class and submit their answers through Assignments in Canvas.
- Students are required to write three short papers (between 3 and 4 pages) throughout the semester. There is also a longer final essay (8-10 pages). The due dates for the papers will be indicated in the syllabus, as well as instructions on how to write them.
- We will read four novels and a selection of short stories. Some of the materials will be available on Canvas, others will need to be purchased in advance by students. The final reading list will be available prior to the start of the course.