This seminar explores violence as a cultural commodity through a series of theoretical texts on violence (Benjamin, Arendt, Lawrence and Karim), the culture industry (Adorno), and field of cultural production (Bourdieu). Taking the case of Colombia as emblematic of Latin America’s social reality as a whole, we will study violent scenarios that are easily commodified in best-selling fiction (by Vásquez, Restrepo, Vallejo), films (Birds of Passage, Monos) and art (by Botero, Salcedo), and successfully marketed in North America and Europe. In particular, we will pay close attention to literary and cultural market trends that reinforce readers’ knowledge of Latin America’s “dark side”—e.g., human rights violations, kidnappings, narcotics warfare, collective traumatic experiences, or economic hardships—by focusing on specific local conflicts chosen for the interest they are likely to attract in the global market. We will also study the boom of Colombian cinema that has emerged in recent decades in the context of the negotiations and the signing of the Peace Agreements (2012-2018). Likewise, we will pay close attention to the articulation of violence, conflict and national reconciliation by exploring new forms of visual representation proposed by filmmakers such as William Vega, Ciro Guerra, Cristina Gallego, Jorge Forero, or Alejandro Landes. To explore these visual practices proposed by these filmmakers, we will read texts on “hapticity”, “visual tactility” and “materiality” (L. Marks, G. Bruno) for investigating new forms of viewing conflict and violence. We will also explore the “rural turn” (M. Ospina) in this “new cinema” as part of production and distribution policies that promote exotic Colombian landscapes for global consumption. Students will have the opportunity to explore specific research case studies (e.g., literature, film, visual arts, or media) to further investigate violence and Latin American contemporary cultural production. Course will be taught primarily in Spanish with readings and in-class discussions both in Spanish and English.
RLL GRADUATE SEMINARS & SELECTED COURSES OF INTEREST

WINTER 2023 Featured Courses

SPANISH 832/AMCULT 601.005/LATINOAM 601.001/COMPLIT 760.001 Performance and Politics in the Americas
Prof. Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes
Tues 1-4 pm #33440 / #35857

What are the intersections of performance and politics in the Americas? In this class we will address performance (understood in relation to the performing arts but also as a lens for social analysis) from a hemispheric perspective, focusing on the intersection of performance and politics, as they are intersected by race and ethnicity, national contexts, language, migration, gender, sexuality, class, ability/disability, social movements, new technologies, and violence. The class will serve as an introduction to performance studies with a focus on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinx experience in the United States and Canada. We will read texts by key performance studies scholars and artists such as Diana Taylor, David Román, Ramón Rivera-Servera, Marcela A. Fuentes, Laura G. Gutiérrez, Leticia Alvarado, Vivian Martínez Tabares, José Esteban Muñoz, Carmelita Tropicana, Coco Fusco, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, and Antonio Prieto Stambough, and integrate videos and films focusing on figures such as Damiela Eltit, Astrid Hadad, Jesusa Rodríguez, Regina José Galindo, Petrona de la Cruz Cruz, Teresa Hernández, Teresa Ralli, Ana Mendiesta, Tania Bruguera, Las Yeguas del Apocalipsis (The Mares of the Apocalypse), Lukas Avendaño, Walter Mercado, Francis Aly's, Arthur Aviles, Javier Cardona, Carlos Martiel, John Leguizamo, Wu Tsang, Avilda Rodriguez Lora, Macha Colón, Janpi Star, Pó Rodil, Cheril Linett, and Lido Pimienta. Class will be conducted in English. All readings will be available in English.

SPANISH 881/COMPLIT 770.001 Theoretical Approaches to Culture: (Un)translating Aesthetics
Prof. Kate Jenckes
Wed 1-4 pm #26383 / #35479

This class will explore forms and theories of art and literature that interrogate the possibility of translation, understood in a variety of registers, including the linguistic sense of a conveyance of meaning from one language to another as well as other forms of conveyance and conversion, including the production and representation of value, truth, history, and experience. We will consider the figure of translation in linguistic, philosophical, political, psychoanalytic, and perceptual terms, with a special emphasis on how it relates to the structure of sovereignty, and how cultural and aesthetic forms sustain and/or disrupt that relation. Topics will include visuality, textuality, witnessing, state repression, globalization, migration, singularity, identity, universality, institutional discourse. The readings, which will be available in English, will include a combination of critical theory (primarily a certain legacy of deconstruction) and primary texts (fiction, poetry, and visual art, primarily from or relating to Latin America and the U.S.).

ITALIAN 422 Politics & Literature: Humans, Animals, Viruses: Awareness as Immunity
Prof. Roberto Mosciati
Tues/Thurs 10-11:30am #33773

This course will provide a survey on some of the most influential 20th century philosophical texts that belong to the western tradition, and which engage with the “human-nonhuman” question. Specifically, we will discuss Italian authors such as Antonio Gramsci, Giorgio Agamben, Roberto Esposito, and Toni Negri in relation to both French philosophy (Sartre, Foucault) and German thought (Heidegger, Schmitt, Marcuse). Considering a variety of theoretical approaches including Existentialism, Marxism, Postmodernism, and Biopolitics, we will focus on themes like capitalism, globalization, scientific practices, technology, and identity, so as to get a better understanding of how human nature, knowledge, and power relations have evolved after almost three years of pandemic crisis. Taught in English/no knowledge of Italian required/ no texts required, all readings will be uploaded on Canvas.

ITALIAN 430 Twentieth Century Italy: Italian fumetto
Prof. Manuela Di Franco
Mon/Wed 1-2:30 pm #33774

Have you ever considered comics as a product that mirrors a country’s history? While there is still some debating comics are a product for children, comics are popular media that reflect, reinforce and challenge a country’s society and culture. We will explore twentieth century Italy through comics, looking at how it reflected Italian modernization. From single panels to graphic novels, from adapted versions of American comics to Italian comics translated worldwide, we will look into the evolution of Italian fumetti and discover an often overlooked aspect of Italian culture. From the beginning of the 20th century to the new millennium, we will see how Italian artists created graphic narratives and retrace moments of Italian history from a unique perspective. Taught in Italian.
**RLL GRADUATE SEMINARS & SELECTED COURSES OF INTEREST**

**WINTER 2023 Featured Courses**

**PORTUGUESE 461 Brazilian Culture**  
Prof. Victoria Langland  
Mon/Wed 1-2:30 pm  
#30654

This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to Brazilian cultures, history, and society for students of Portuguese. Each week will be devoted to a different thematic topic that will allow us to consider key features of Brazil's past and present. By using a wide variety of materials in their original Portuguese, from podcasts and videos to scholarly and literary writing, the course will expose students to a broad expanse of Brazilian voices and perspectives and allow them to examine how Brazil became the diverse, dynamic and fascinating place it is today.

This course will be conducted in Portuguese, with particular emphasis on developing students' listening, speaking, and reading skills.