

LITERATURE OF CONQUEST AND COLONIZATION IN SPANISH AMERICA

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MW 11AM-12:15 PM



In this course, we will trace the development of Spanish American literature from its earliest expressions in indigenous cultures through the nineteenth century primarily through a sampling of short stories, poetry and fragments of larger works. We will focus briefly on Aztec and Incan poetry as well as several selections from the Popol Vuh, known as the Mayan "Bible". Then, we will plunge into the chronicles of the Conquest, comprised mainly of historical accounts written by Spanish conquistadors. After that, we will examine the literature of colonial Spanish America, including selections from the Golden Age poetry and prose of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, the first feminist writer of the New World. We will also study the literature of independence fueled by the French Enlightenment and the resultant literature of socio-political protest within the newly independent nation states of Spanish America whose governments were controlled by brutal dictators.