



**What is Real?**  
**The Latin American Short Story**  
**SPAN 463**

**Rafael Acosta MW 11:00 - 12:15**

**There are few ways to criticize reality more than by escaping it. Realisms in Latin America have been varied, spanning a wide array of options going from social realism to magical realism. During this course we will read short stories of the XXth and XXIst centuries in order to understand what does it mean to change what seems to be possible, what seems to be real and what seems to be realistic.**

**Realism is a constructed idea, changing throughout time and culture, and is often challenged by reality itself. Students will be encouraged to think, through the many ways in which the Latin American short story has reimagined the realistic, of all the ways in which their reality could be constrained by an unfounded notion of realism.**