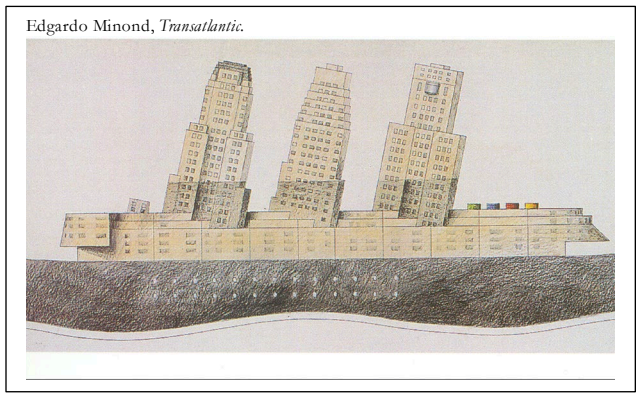
SPAN 540. The Global Hispanophone City: Literature, Visual Studies, and Digital Humanities


Edgardo Minond, *Transatlantic.*

This interdisciplinary course will examine the infrastructure and spatial relationships in the Global Hispanophone city's representations in novels, short stories, films, music, and digital media. Two interrelated questions form the core of this course: Is infrastructure really a symbol of development and modernity? In what ways is digital infrastructure based on biases that already exist in physical infrastructure? The urban spaces and cities of Global Hispanophone have always fascinated writers and other artists, and now digital media approaches and their respective artistic versions of the city offer a new way to engage with the city beyond its physical existence.

The study of infrastructural projects also allows for a critical view of new information technologies. For example, racial segregation can now operate in virtual spaces. In this course, we will explore is how city infrastructure is typically regarded as producing a common good, but can also be detrimental, especially for certain populations with the help of novels, films, and critical writing that have been foundational for a spatial analysis of texts. We will also learn about how artists, filmmakers, writers, and digital humanities scholars have developed alternative ways of thinking about infrastructure that make for a more egalitarian space. Readings will be drawn primarily from literary texts in Spanish combined with scholarly articles and book chapters. Students will research, propose, and create a digital portfolio, which will serve as the primary assessment for the seminar.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain a preliminary understanding of the historical process of the urbanization Spanish-speaking world.
- Consider urban development as a process and a challenge to the people to build open urban communities against the prevalent pattern of exclusion.
- Articulate some of the fundamental theoretical issues in digital humanities and identify and begin to apply principles and best practices for appraising digital research
- Acknowledge how we can introduce our biases and believes into digital infrastructures