



## SPAN 985: SPAN Seminar Span Amer Liter & Culture: Transpacific encounters: Cultural exchanges between Asia and Latin America

This seminar in cultural studies introduces students to literature, cultural production, and practices from across the transpacific region. It introduces critical issues related to the nations and communities that share the Pacific Ocean as a space of globalization. Students will learn that people have moved across the Pacific since pre-colonial and colonial times, and still do in the present day. First, it will provide a general definition of colonialism, coloniality, and decoloniality (Said, Lowe, Wynter, Maldonado Torres, Junyoung, Goeff). Then, we will address the ways in which these debates have been inflected in four different geographical areas in which different colonialisms coexist and collide: the Caribbean, Latin America, the Pacific. In that framework, we will discuss the following questions: why these spaces feel “distant” to Latin America both geographically and culturally? Why is the Asian origin or descent often erased when talking about identity construction in Latin America? What cultural influence did Asian immigration to Latin America or Latin American migration to Asia had?

With those topics as our starting point, we will explore the transpacific encounters through visual culture, food, literature, and film. The Transpacific perspective tries to rethink the fictions of frontiers made by the narrative of nation-states and regions. While doing this, this course also addresses the structural limitation inherent in the formation of area studies. Students learn to look beyond conventional patterns of movement and migration, and to imagine and generate less-explored connections between disparate geopolitical sites.

Class; Tu 04:00-07:00 PM WES 2600

Contact: Ninel Valderrama Negrón  
ninel.valderrama@ku.edu