

SPAN 785: Special Topics in Spanish-American Literature

"Intro to Caribbean Studies: The Price of Paradise"

Spring 2027

Instructor: Ninel Valderrama Negrón

Mondays 4:30pm - 7:00pm, Wescoe 2600

Class #60605



This graduate seminar examines the Spanish-speaking and circum-Caribbean through the lens of debt, not merely sovereign debt, but also the debts of recognition, labor, and ecology that have structured Caribbean life over time.

By understanding the Caribbean as a basin of coasts and routes (rather than simply as "islands"), we move from debates regarding Haitian indemnity and reparations to Puerto Rico's colonial fiscal governance, from migration and indentured servitude to the climate crisis and tourism infrastructure. Readings combine theory, history, and law with literature, film, poetry, and the visual arts to ask how debt organizes time, belonging, and extraction, and how Caribbean cultural production renders these structures visible, debatable, and narratable.