This 2019 the world will commemorate the 500 years of the Spanish penetration in Mesoamerica, leading to the conquest of Tenochtitlan in 1521. In this course we will study the literature and historiography of the Spanish empire and the new Spanish America societies, beginning with the writings of Columbus and the cartographic imagination. The students will read texts produced during the conquest and the early evangelization (i.e. Hernán Cortés, Cabeza de Vaca, Sahagún, etc.), leading to intense debates on the nature of the Indians and the justice of the European occupation of the New World (Vitoria, Las Casas, Sepúlveda). In the second part, the focus will be on narrations of the formation of new forms of indigeneity and the new Criollo culture of the vice-regal city. Emphasis will be on authors such as Guaman Poma de Ayala, the mestizo Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, and the Mexican nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Contemporary critical readings will complement class discussion.