



Fall 2019

SPN 420: Topics in Spanish and Latin American Cinema
Mapping Latin American Migrations: Film and Personal Narratives

T/Th 11:30-12:50 pm Prof. Adrián Pérez Melgosa
SBC: ARTS, HFA+

Students can also satisfy EXP+ by enrolling in SPN 444: Experiential Learning (0 credits)
in conjunction with SPN 420, with permission of Professor Pérez Melgosa



Map of Latino Long Island
Mapping an identity of the future

Currently, immigration is one of the main concerns of politicians, the media, human rights organizations, and nationalist groups. This course will look at immigration through two perspectives, that of cinema, and that of the personal histories of migrants in Long Island. Depicted as a modern and rapidly increasing phenomenon, migration has been a constant shaping force in the history of the Americas. In Pre-Columbian time there were already well-established migratory routes. Migration was also a key factor through the periods of colonization, independence, and national development across the continent. In the late 19th century the invention of cinema provided the means to record, and share the diverse human experiences connected with leaving a territory and settling in a new area in the Americas. Today, new technologies of audio-visual recording and digital mapping continue to enhance our capacity to register, understand, and learn from many stories that migration engenders. This course will concentrate on the representation of recent migration and migratory experiences to the U.S. in cinema and in oral histories. We will concentrate on the point of view of Latin American directors and producers and on the oral histories of Latin American migrants living in Long Island. As we study these films, we will also engage in applying what we learn in them to the histories of migration within our community. Students will participate in the ongoing project *Cultural and Social Map of Latino Long Island*, a research project carried out within the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature as a service to the Latino community by collecting oral histories and providing visibility to the contributions of Latinos to the island, and learn about the personal and political dimensions of migration, the history and current trends of the phenomenon, and about the places that originate and receive Latin American migrants.

