



SPAN 2332: Introduction to Andean and Amazonian Studies

Prof. Michelle Wibbelsman
Spring 2021

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:45-2:05 PM
Hybrid – Agriculture Admin Bldg. 043

This course offers an introduction to Andean and Amazonian cultures in both historical and contemporary perspective. The course revolves around processes of continuity and change in this area of Latin America, encompassing the territory of modern day nation states of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas, and Brazil. This course offers a panoramic view of the region and its people, revealing the uniqueness and diversity they represent. Nonetheless, important themes frame the readings and lectures, tying this region together. Symbolic continuity across the region; oral traditions including art, ritual, myths and music; the strength of the *ayllu* or community; the relationship between people and their environment; prevailing forms of indigenous knowledge and power; indigenous cosmivision; Andes-Amazonia connections; cultural contact and syncretism; representations of conquest and colonialism; and social movements are among some of the overarching themes.

For students interested in pursuing Latin American Studies, a minor in Andean and Amazonian Studies, International Studies, Spanish, Portuguese or Quechua language courses, or in traveling abroad, visiting, or working in the Andean and Amazonian area, this course will provide an introduction to useful concepts, information and cultural perspectives. For all students, this course offers a glimpse at the broad spectrum of human societies and fosters a comparative and critical awareness of Andean and Amazonian peoples and cultures.