

SPA 250 / LAS 250/ LAO 250 / HUM 251  
Identity in the Spanish-Speaking World  
with Trip to Puerto Rico over Fall Break (no extra fee required)



How are ideas of belonging to the body politic defined in Spain, Latin America, and in Spanish-speaking communities in the United States? Who is “Latin American,” “Latinx,” “China,” “Moro” “Boricua,” “Indio,” etc.? Who constructs these terms and why? Who do they include/exclude? Why do we need these identity markers in the first place? Our course will engage these questions by surveying and analyzing literary, historical, and visual productions from the time of the foundation of the Spanish empire to the present time in the Spanish speaking world. We will explore how national and alternate identities are imagined, constructed, changed, and remembered. We will also discuss the epistemology of identity markers and the impact of those markers on experience and inherited experience.

We will devote much of the first half of the course learning about Puerto Rico’s socio-cultural history under Spanish and American colonial rules. Over the Fall Break (October 17-23), we will travel to Puerto Rico to learn about the many ways in which Puerto Rican identity is conceived from artists, community organizers, activists, and everyday Puerto Ricans, especially given the country’s colonial condition and in the aftermath of Hurricane María. The second half of the course will be devoted to lesser known Latin American identities of Asian origin, such as Nikkeis in Perú and Korean-Cubans. Towards the end of the course, we will explore the complexities and diversity Latinx identities in the United States and their relationship to current Latin American immigration policies.

**Requirement: SPA 207 or equivalent. Enrollment by interview only. Please contact Professor Christina Lee to schedule a zoom appointment at [chrislee@princeton.edu](mailto:chrislee@princeton.edu)**