

FYS 329: Latin American Time Machine

One purpose of this course is to allow you to investigate historical roots of issues and events in present-day Latin America and how they are portrayed in newspapers, fiction, film, and daily life. It thus begins with the present, traveling back in time to key moments in history. Topics vary by semester, but may include European “conquests” of Latin America, the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro, immigration and the border, or pirates. A second and equally important purpose is to “develop skills in writing, reasoning, and research that will be of critical importance throughout [your] academic careers.” This is how the Bates College Catalog explains this goal of an FYS, but to put this in more practical terms, it means you will work on reading critically, analyzing evidence, and expressing your thoughts in original academic papers as well as in discussions. Finally, the course will also introduce you to some of the resources available at Bates, including Ladd Library (and its electronic resources) and the Writing Workshop.