The United States and Latin America have an intimate relationship. This interdependence will no doubt grow in the near future given trade agreements, migration, and resource dependence across the hemisphere. Yet, Latin America is poorly understood within the U.S. public imaginary. This course will explore the historical, social, political, and environmental geography of the region. Through an engagement with scholarly texts, film, song, mapping, and performance methods, the class will place special focus on matters concerning models of development, globalization, dynamics of injustice, and social movements’ resistance.

For non-Geography majors, this class will introduce you to Latin America through a geographical approach by thinking spatially and relationally through concepts such as territory, place, cultural landscapes, core-periphery relationships, and splintering urbanism. For majors and minors, this course will allow you to enrich your skills in cartography and application of geographic concepts using a specific regional focus. As an exercise in critical thinking, reading, writing, and speaking, Geography 259 will serve as a bridge between introductory courses and more advanced scholarship, such as independent research or upper division coursework in Geography, Environmental Studies, Political Science, or a variety of other fields.