

**SPN 506: Senior Seminar
Dr. Joan F. Marx
mw 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Spring 2012**



The brutal military regimes of the twentieth century in Latin America reflected the tensions inherent in nations whose feudal legacy from the Spanish Conquest came into direct conflict with socialist movements that sought to break the postcolonial paradigm. From the 1930s through the 1990s, Latin America was marked by the struggle for more democratic and thus egalitarian societies. In this course, we will first examine the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to gain an understanding of the legal and ethical foundations for the establishment of a list of basic freedoms for all peoples, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender orientation, religious or political affiliation. We will then focus on issues of social justice for women through an examination of the roles of men and women in Latin America (machismo, marianismo, and feminismo) and how their resulting political, social and economic conflicts find expression in literary form, theme and technique.

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***(Re) Imagining Social Justice for Women
in Spanish American Literature***