

SPN 420 HUMAN RIGHTS LITERATURE IN THE AMERICAS

DR. JOAN F. MARX

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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. Specifically, from the 1930s through the 1990s, Latin America was marked by the struggle for more democratic and 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. Next, we will explore the literature of human rights in regard to specific genres in order to learn how literary form, theme and technique express a nation's observances of human rights (or the lack thereof) in the Americas.