



HIS 156: LATIN AMERICAN MIGRATION HISTORY

Term: **Fall 2023**

Instructor: **Jose Juan Perez Melendez**

Lecture: **TR, 10:30-11:50AM**

Latin America represents the largest migrant-sending region for the U.S. Yet, besides border walls and detention camps that meet many of its people at the U.S., this macro-region has its own complex history of promoting, curtailing and managing migrations. Deportations along the U.S.-Mexico border find a convex mirror in northern Brazil, where Venezuelans can enter only to meet unspeakable violence. Preemptive repression of migrant caravans from Honduras or El Salvador now co-exists with “reformed” asylum policies such as those of Chile, meant to deter instead of protect Haitians, Senegalese, and other migrants seeking succor.

This course examines how Latin American governments transformed human mobility into a phenomenon meant to be managed, profited from, and ultimately contained within the strict bounds of national territories. Besides inquiring into how Latin American migration regimes have conformed themselves through time, we will also study the persistence of human migrations, that is, migrants’ own efforts to counter official definitions of belonging and state-defined parameters of exclusion.