This course provides students with an introduction to the analysis of Hispanic literature and culture. As an introductory course, its main objectives are to provide students with a survey of Hispanic literary and cultural production and to foster basic concepts and skills through which to interpret, analyze, and communicate (both orally and in writing) about literature and culture. While our main focus will be on essays, narrative, poetry, and drama, we will also expand our archive to include some films. Through in-class discussions and written work (textual analyses and argumentative essays) we will learn to develop grounded interpretations of literary and cultural texts by analyzing their content (story, ideas, themes), the ways through which content is structured and expressed by the text’s form, and the relationship between a text and its socio-political context. The course’s approach stems from the proposition that by better understanding the way a text creates meaning and engages with the ideas, changes, and preoccupations of its time, we will also be able to become more critical readers/viewers. The analytical tools that students learn in this course will also prepare them for more advanced classes in literature and culture.