This seminar will explore recurring themes and trends related to the contemporary condition in Latin America. Going beyond common understandings of contemporariness as temporal simultaneity, historical immediacy, or simply what is current, we will ask how narrative, film, and cultural theory coming out of the region in the last few decades represent and question the constitutive tensions of the present. As part of a Latin American constellation of the contemporary, we will address topics such as neo-authoritarianism and memory politics, the (post-sovereign) state in global times, environmental toxicity and the pandemic, immigrant/refugee crises, Latin American feminisms, and post-autonomous aesthetic forms. Our approach will be hemispheric and comparative. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of materials that include literary texts, films and documentaries, scholarly essays, author interviews, podcasts, and videos.