International Language and Culture Studies

Spanish

Dr. Stephen Buttes

Dr. Buttes' research focuses on the intersections of aesthetics and politics with a particular focus on Latin American literature and visual cultural production. His approach to these problems works at the intersections of various disciplines: literature and literary theory, cultural studies, art history, philosophy, economics, film studies and history. Students working with Dr. Buttes would have the opportunity to be introduced to major debates being explored in these fields as they appear in the context of Latin American cultural studies, and students would have the opportunity to participate in various stages of the research process. Dr. Buttes currently has three major research efforts in progress. The first is a book project that explores the political implications of the intersections of the concept of poverty and the concept of literature. The second is a new research project that uses the concepts of landscape and the environment to explore the question of debt and economics in Latin American cultural production. The third is a collaborative research project with Dr. Rumsey in English that will document the multi-lingual narratives of families with multi-generational connections to factory work in Northeast Indiana. This last project is connected to events for the community, and students could participate in planning and promoting the events. Students could also opt to participate in one of several smaller projects such as one focusing on early Chilean film and visual illustration, contemporary Chilean film economics and language, or a collaborative research project with Dr. Weiner in History on the shared history of Mexico and the United States. Students will choose a project based on their abilities with the Spanish language and their interests.