

SUSTN 496: The Amazon is the Center of the World

Spring 2021 // Wednesdays 16:00-18:40 // Mostly Synchronous



The Amazon is the Center of the World examines the importance of the Amazon region in the Brazilian, Latin American, and global imaginaries and engages with contemporary issues surrounding the Amazon region and the people who live there. Students will encounter the pre-conquest history and cosmovision of the Indigenous populations of Amazonia, experience cultural production from and about the forest, and consider different perspectives of the debates surrounding conservation, indigenous rights, and economic development in the Amazon. Course materials include literature, such as written records of oral traditions and memoirs of inhabitants of the rainforest, documentary and narrative film, visual arts, and scholarly publications from social and environmental sciences. In the second half of the course, guest-speakers contribute their unique perspectives of contemporary issues in Amazonia.

Instructor: Dr. Kristal Bivona // kbivona@sdsu.edu // Schedule #34021