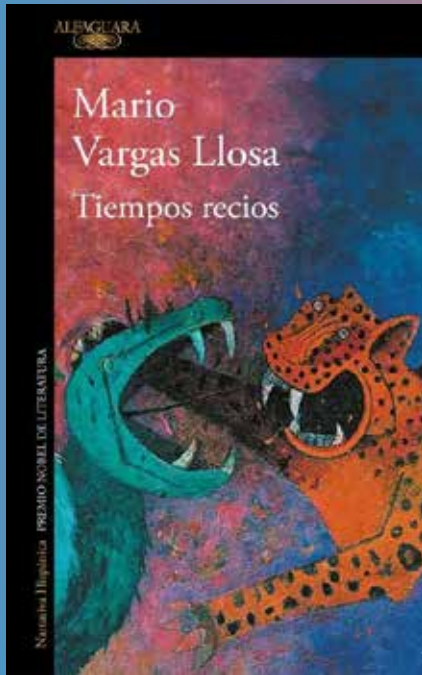


## 1 credit seminar: “*Mario Vargas Llosa Cátedra 2025*”

Taught in person by:

David Unger – Guatemalan author, translator and former CCNY professor;  
Winner of Guatemala's 2014 “*Miguel Ángel Asturias*” National Prize For Literature.



Required text:

Mario Vargas Llosa's novel *Tiempos recios* / *Harsh Times* (2019).  
(In either English or Spanish).

[Students must attend all 3 meetings  
Taught in Spanish & English]

Dates: October 21st (Tues), 23rd (Thurs), 24th (Fri) 2025

Time: 4:30 PM - 8:30 PM (with breaks)

Place: The Rifkind Center (NAC 6/316)

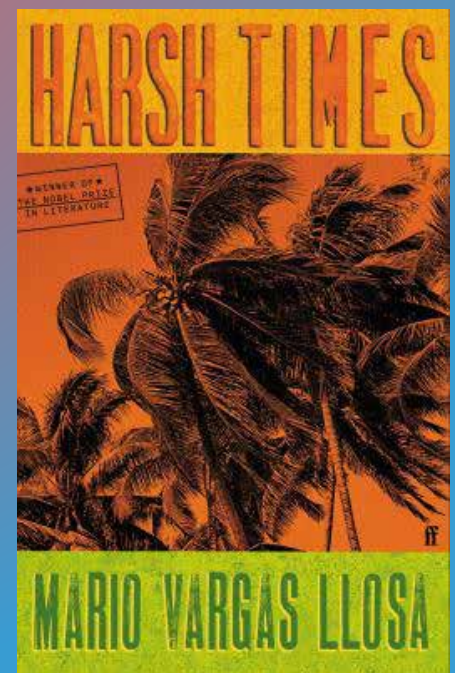
# Register now!

Course number, Undergraduate: Span 39000  
(class code-38091)

Course number, Graduate: Span V39000  
(class code-33711)

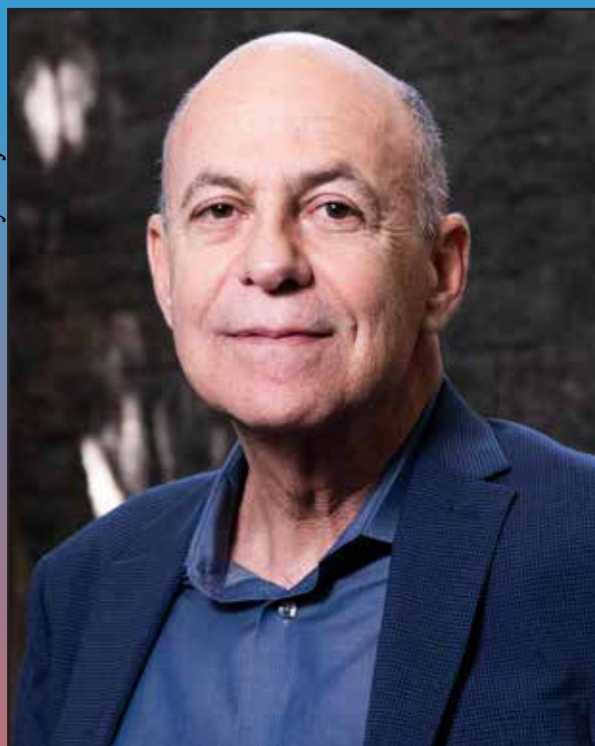
For general information:

email [criobo@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:criobo@ccny.cuny.edu) or [rmartinez@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:rmartinez@ccny.cuny.edu)



## Register for the 1 credit Seminar “Cátedra Mario Vargas Llosa 2025”

Photo by Maj Lindström



Offered through the “Cátedra Mario Vargas Llosa”, the Colonial Latin American Review, the Rifkind Center, the Division of Humanities and Arts, and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at The City College, CUNY, this one (1) credit seminar focuses on Mario Vargas Llosa’s novel *Tiempos recios / Harsh Times* (2019).

This work focuses on the 1954 U.S. engineered coup in Guatemala, which ushered in 36 years of armed conflict and the death of 200,000 Guatemalans. This novel also focuses on the role of Dominican Republic’s dictator Rafael Trujillo in the coup and how events in Guatemala led Fidel Castro to adopt more aggressive tactics toward his enemies, real or perceived, during the Cuban Revolution. Students will read selected chapters of this fast-paced novel and discuss how events 70 years ago are reflected in today’s geo-political realities.

The seminar will be conducted by renowned Guatemalan author, translator, and former CCNY professor David Unger. Participants may read the novel in either English or Spanish. Students must attend all 3 meetings.

For registration and general information contact:

Prof. Carlos Riobó: [criobo@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:criobo@ccny.cuny.edu) or Ms. Rosa Martínez: [rmartinez@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:rmartinez@ccny.cuny.edu) / 212-650-6731

About the invited instructor David Unger:

David Unger received Guatemala’s *Miguel Angel Asturias National Literature Prize* for lifetime achievement in 2014, though he writes in English and lives abroad. Novels include *In My Eyes, You Are Beautiful* (Mosaic Press, 2023), *The Mastermind*, (Akashic Books, 2016) [translated into ten languages including Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Turkish and Polish], *The Price of Escape* (Akashic Books: 2011; into German, Romanian and Spanish), *Ni chicha, ni limonada* (F y G Editores, 2019, 2009) and *Life in the Damn Tropics* (Wisconsin University Press, 2004). He has translated 18 titles including his celebrated re-translation of Guatemalan Nobelism Miguel Angel Asturias’s *Mr. President* (Penguin Classics, 2022), *Folktales for Fearless Girls* (Penguin, 2019), *The Popol Vuh*, (Guatemala’s pre-Columbian creation myth) and books by Rigoberta Menchú (Guatemala), Enrique Lihn (Chile), Silvia Molina (Mexico), Nicanor Parra (Chile), Ana Maria Machado (Brazil), Elena Garro (Mexico) and Teresa Cárdenas (Cuba). He has also translated many stories by Mario Benedetti (Uruguay), Denise Phe-Funchal (Guatemala), and Sergio Ramirez Mercado (Nicaragua), among others. His children’s books are *José Feeds the World* (Duopress, 2024), *Moley Mole/Topo Pecoso* (Green Seeds Publishing, 2021). *Sleeping With the Light On* (Groundwood Books, 2020), and *La Casita* (2011, CIDCLI). His short stories and essays have appeared in the *Paris Review*, *Medium*, *Puertos Abiertos* (FCE, 2011), *Guernica Magazine* (February 2016, April 2011, November 2007 and August 2006) and *Playboy Mexico* (October 2005).