Mario Vargas Llosa’s La fiesta del Chivo: History, Reality and Literature

Days and Room:  Tuesday, 24 October (NAC-5/223, at CCNY); Thursday, 26 October (NAC-5/223); Friday, 27 October (Instituto Cervantes) Hours: 4:30-8:30 pm.
Course Number: Undergraduate: SPAN 39000; Graduate: SPAN V3900

Department: Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures, City College, CUNY

Offered through the Cátedra Mario Vargas Llosa and the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at The City College, CUNY, with the cooperation of the Instituto Cervantes, this one (1) credit seminar focuses on Mario Vargas Llosa’s historical novel La fiesta del Chivo (2000), about the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. It echoes a recurrent theme in Latin American literature as seen in major novels such as El señor presidente (Miguel Ángel Asturias, 1946); Yo, el Supremo (Augusto Roa Bastos, 1974); El recurso del método (Alejo Carpentier, 1974); and El otoño del patriarca (Gabriel García Márquez, 1975). La fiesta del Chivo’s multiple focalizations as well as its singular treatment of time and voices, allow for a meditation on power and its limits. This course, taught by the acclaimed Mexican writer Mónica Lavín with Distinguished Professor Raquel Chang-Rodríguez, will examine novelistic form—point of view and counterpoint—as keys to the fictionalization of history, narrative persuasive power, and our understanding of the human condition. Knowledge of Spanish/Participation in Spanish or English.

Text: Mario Vargas Llosa, La fiesta del Chivo/The Feast of the Goat (any ed. in Spanish or English)

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