We will study the relationship between the arts (including literature, film, and visual arts) and society in Latin America during the twentieth century by focusing on four historical conjunctures when this relationship was particularly rich: the political and artistic vanguards of the 1920s (with particular attention to the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath); the populist movements in the 1940s (especially Peronismo); the 1960s, marked by the historical turning point of the Cuban Revolution; and the decade of the 1990s, characterized by the transition to democracy, the emergence of human rights and other social movements.