HISTORY/LATAM 1950
The Invention of the Americas, 1450-1850
T/Th: 10:10 – 11:25

Christopher Columbus consults his Lonely Planet guide.

[“Columbus lands on Las Indias,” by Wayne Healy]

When did the ‘Americas’ come in to being? Who created ‘them’ and how? What other geographic units of analysis might we consider in thinking about what the unexpected places Iberian explorers and intellectuals encountered in the 15th and 16th centuries? Given the scope and extent of the Spanish and Portuguese empires, could ‘the Americas’ extend from the Caribbean to the Philippines? This course takes up such questions as a means to explore the history of what would become — only in the nineteenth century — ‘Latin America.’

*No previous background in Latin American history nor Spanish/Portuguese languages required*

*Questions? Email Prof. Raymond Craib at rbc23@cornell.edu*