We will examine and interrogate how texts form, circulate, and mitigate by focusing on several zones of contact and discussing the ways in which major and minor genres - the novel, travel narratives, short stories, the captivity narrative, political essays, and poetry - knit the extended Americas together in complex narratives of interdependence. Focusing on how literature produces meaning through the interconnected relations of different sites in the US, Latin America, and the Caribbean. First, we will examine and interrogate the field of Inter-American literature and what is at stake in de-centering the U.S. Secondly, we will examine how the complexities of multilingualism, competing nationalisms/colonial powers, ethnic, and racial differentiations, migrations, and U.S. expansion and imperialism inform robust literary readings that take into consideration a literary history of culture, politics, production, and form.