

Course Name: Argentine History and Literature

- ✓ **Hours of Instruction per Week: 4**
- ✓ **Total weeks: 15**
- ✓ **Total Hours of Instruction: 60**
- ✓ **Courses transferable to ECTS**
- ✓ **Courses transferable to U.S. System**
- ✓ **Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English**

Course Description:

Taking an interdisciplinary approach to Argentine history and literature, this course will deal with “hybrid” writings such as *Facundo* by Sarmiento, which is an excellent example of how Argentine literature has been repeatedly contaminated by political debates. The Romantic spirit of the country’s organization not only impacted the literary and political works of Argentina’s founder father Domingo Sarmiento but also, and more importantly, it gave rise to a tradition of writers as intellectuals who were to play a central role in Latin American societies and politics. Literature provides a backdrop for the epic struggle between civilization and barbarism, but also an arena to discuss modernization and immigration, dictatorships and human rights, democracy and globalization. Working across disciplines, the course proposes a close reading of such texts as Sarmiento’s *Facundo*, Arlt’s *The Seven Madmen*, Martínez’ *Santa Evita*, Walsh’s *Operación Masacre* and Osorio’s *My Name is Light*. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the historical and cultural complexities of Argentina.

Attendance policy:

In accordance with University policies, students are required to have 75% percent attendance in order to take the final exam and have an opportunity to pass the class. Any absences incurred during trips or excursions not organized by the University fall within the 25% limit of absences. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electric card every class to comply with attendance policy. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

Evaluation Methods:

- In-class Participation: 10%
- Oral Presentation: 20%
- In-class Writing: 20%
- Midterm Exam Paper (5 page): 20%
- Final Exam Paper (8-10 page): 30%

For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check table online
http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies/conversion_table.htm

Academic Calendar

Week 1- Unit 1

1.1.

- Introduction to course. History and Fiction. The 1810 Revolution and its aftermaths.
Bibliography: Felix Luna, "A Short History of the Argentinians" (Chapters 3-7).

1.2.

- Domingo F. Sarmiento's Facundo: Barbarism and Civilization.
- Required reading Facundo (Chapters 1 to 4)

Week 2- Unit 1

2.1.

- Domingo F. Sarmiento's Facundo: Barbarism and Civilization
- Required reading Facundo (Chapters 5 and 13)

2.2.

- The "Dictator Novel" in Latin America. Literature and History
- Required reading: Facundo (Chapters 14-15)

Week 3- Unit 1/2

3.1.

- Esteban Echeverría.
- Required reading: “The Slaughter House”
- Student presentation: David Viñas “The Foundation of the National State”

3.2.

- Roberto Arlt’s The Seven Madmen: Historical context. The impact of Immigration. A Refoundation of Argentina
- Required reading: “Immigration as a Means of Progress” by Juan Bautista Alberdi

Week 4- Unit 2

4.1.

- The Seven Madmen (Chapters 1-2)
- Literary Context. Boedo and Florida
- Student Presentation: Christina Civantos “Language, Literary Legitimacy and Masculinity in the Writings of Roberto Arlt”

Week 5- Unit 2

5.1.

- The Seven Madmen. Topics. (1)
- Required reading: The Seven Madmen (Chapter 3)
- Student Presentation: Roberto Arlt “Soccer and Popular Joy”

5.2.

- The Seven Madmen. Topics (2)
- In-class writing on The Seven Madmen

Week 6- Unit 2/3

6.1.

- The Seven Madmen and its Correspondence with the Political Movements in the 1940s
- Student Presentation: Daniel James “Workers and the Political Appeal of Peronism”

6.2.

- Rodolfo Walsh’s “That Woman”
- Tomás Eloy Martínez Santa Evita. Historical context.
- Student Presentation: Daniel James “The Heretical Social Impact of Peronism”

Week 7- Unit 3

7.1.

- Required reading: Santa Evita (Chapters 1-9)
- Evita: vida pasión y muerte (screening in class w/ English Subtitles)

7.2.

- Santa Evita: Topics. Reality versus Fiction. Story and Discourse. The writer's craft.
- Required reading: Santa Evita (Chapters 9-16)
- Assignment: Visit the Museo Evita
- Student Presentation: Diaz, Gwendolyn. "Making the Myth of Evita Perón: Saint, Martyr, Prostitute."

Week 8-Unit 3

8.1.

- Position Paper (In-class written outline).
- Compare Evita's representation as watched in the video, read in the novel and presented in the museum, analyzes of differences and similarities.

8.2.

- Victoria Ocampo. Activist and patron of Argentina's literary golden age as Evita's political and cultural counter myth. "Sur". South America's leading literary magazine.
- Student Presentation: Mónica Ottino, Excerpts from "Eva y Victoria"

Week 9- Unit 4

9.1.

- Tres fábulas de Villa Ocampo (screening in class w/ English Subtitles)
- Student Presentation: James Scobie "The Paris of South America"

9.2.

- Jorge Luis Borges: "Monsterfest", Esteban Echeverría: "The slaughter house"
- Students will compare and discuss both texts in class

Week 10- Unit 4

10.1.

- Jorge Luis Borges: "The South"
- Borges and the Double Lineage
- Student Presentation

10.2.

- Julio Cortazar: "House taken over"
- Student Presentation
- Student Presentation: Beatriz Sarlo "Post Modern Forgetfulness"

Week 11- Unit 4

11.1.

- Rodolfo Walsh: “Operation Massacre”
- Short film by Raymundo “Open Letter to the Military Junta”
- Open Discussion on the subject.

11.2.

- El proceso I (screening in class w/ English Subtitles).

Week 12- Unit 4

12.1.

- Literature in the 70s – Elsa Osorio
- Elsa Osorio’s “My name is light”

Week 13- Unit 4

13.1.

- Laura Alcoba: “The Rabbit House”
- Student presentation: María Moreno and Marta Dillon: “The children of death”

13.2.

- Luisa Valenzuela: “Papitos’s Story” “The Censors”
- Assignment: Visit to the Museo de la Memoria
- Student Presentation

Week 14- Unit 4

14.1.

- Position Paper (In-class written outline)
- Essay on Museo de la Memoria

14.2.

- December 2001 (screening in class w/English Subtitles)

Week 15- Unit 4

15.1.

- Horizontalism
- Final conclusions
- Discussion about the texts we read (essays as well as fiction), interpretation or hypothesis concerning the history of Argentina as seen in literary texts

15.2.

- Final Grade Sheet and signature of “Hoja de situación” (attendance is mandatory)
- Final exam

Bibliography

Bilbija, Ksenija, Fair, Jo Ellen, Milton, Cynthia E. *The Art of Truth-Telling About Authoritarian Rule* (Wisconsin University, 2005)

Botana, Natalio. "Sarmiento and Political Order." *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 101-113.

Civantos, Christina. "Language, Literary legitimacy, and Masculinity in the Writings of Roberto Arlt" (JSTOR)

Diaz, Gwendolyn. "Making the Myth of Evita Perón: Saint, Martyr, Prostitute." *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*.

Davies, Lloyd Hughes. "Portraits of a Lady: Postmodern Readings of Tomás Eloy Martínez's "Santa Evita". (JSTOR)

Dongui Halperin, Tulio et al. *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1994.

Flower, Dean. *The Mystery to a Solution: Poe, Borges, and the Analytic Detective Story* by John T. Irving

Gyrko, Lanin. "Hallucination and Nightmare in Two Stories by Cortázar." *Modern Humanities Research Association* 67.3Jul 1972 550-562. 16 Oct 2008
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3726124>>

Kerr, Lucille. "Interview: Julio Cortazar." *Diacritics* 4.41974 35-40. 16 Oct 2008
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/465122>>.

Jitrik, Noé. "Facundo: The Riches of Poverty." *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*. 169- 192.

Lavery, Jane E. "Postmodern Interpretations of the Iconic Self: Tinísima by Elena Poniatowska and Santa Evita by Tomás Eloy Martínez". University of Southampton, UK
Luna, Félix. "A Short History of the Argentinians" Buenos Aires: Planeta, 2000.

Østergård, Sven. "The Unconscious of Representation" ("Death and the Compass")
www.borges.pitt.edu/ftp/vb1/svend.pdf

Nietzsche, Friedrich, "On the advantage and disadvantage of History for Life", Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Indianapolis, Cambridge

Nouzeilles, Gabriela and Graciela Montaldo, ed.
The Argentina Reader. Durham: Duke UP, 2002.

Ocampo, Victoria. Victoria Ocampo: Writer, Feminist, Woman of the World. New Mexico: U of New Mexico P, 1999.

Piglia, Ricardo. "Sarmiento The Writer." 127-144.

Romero, Luis Alberto. A History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century. Buenos Aires: Fondo, 2006.

Salinas, Alejandro. "Culture, politics and literature in Jorge Luis Borges." Paper prepared for delivery at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 28th - August 31st, Boston. Copyright by the American Political Science Association

Sarlo, Beatriz. Borges, a Writer on the Edge. Borges Studies Online. On line. J. L. Borges Center for Studies & Documentation. Internet: 14/04/01 (<http://www.borges.pitt.edu/bsol/bsi0.php>)

Shumway, Nicolas. The Invention of Argentina. Berkley: U of California P, 1991.

Sorensen, Diana. "The Wiles of Disputation: Alberdi reads Facundo" Facundo and the Construction of Argentine Culture. Texas: Panamerican Series, 1999.

Viñas, David. "Sarmiento: Madness or Accumulation."
Sarmiento: Author of a Nation. 113-119.