

Course name: Race and Nation in Argentina

- ✓ *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

This course provides a survey of the history of race in Argentina from preconquest times to our days. A large and geographically diverse nation, Argentina presents numerous and marked differences that have privileged certain racial constructions over others. By exploring the experiences and identities of different sectors of its heterogeneous population, the course will provide a voice to those who have traditionally been excluded from the historical process. By focusing on the indigenous and black population, and on the labouring classes this course will demonstrate how they contributed to the development and construction of the Argentine nation.

Class Format

Each class will consist of two sections. During the first, the instructor will present a short lecture of the subject. The second will engage the students in a more active manner through student-led presentations as well as the reading and working with primary historical source material. We will use different materials (photographs, film, songs, etc.) to foster in-class participation through group discussions.

Objectives

- To become familiar with the general trends in the history of race
- To understand how categories such as race and class have shaped Argentina's social, political, and economic past and present
- To critically engage with the bibliographic material and foster independent analysis
- To become comfortable with the use of primary and secondary sources
- To develop academic writing and oral presentation skills

Grading Policy

- Participation: 10%
- Oral presentation: 20%
- Source analysis paper: 20%
- Mid-term essay: 30%
- Final exam: 20%

Academic Calendar

Week 1

Introduction: what is race? Race, ethnicity and identity in Latin America.

Silverblatt Irene, Foreword and Matthew O'Hara and Andrew Fisher, Introduction, in Fisher and O'Hara (eds.), Imperial Subjects: Race and Identity in Colonial Latin America (Duke University Press, 2009)

Week 2

Pre-conquest and early encounters: the pueblos originarios or indigenous peoples. The Conquest and the emergence of a multiethnic society: the process of mestizaje and acculturation. The Casta Paintings.

George Reid Andrews, Introduction and chapter 1, in Afro Latin America (2004)

Anon. The deeds of Elal, The Argentina Reader

Antonio Pigafetta, Monsters of Patagonia, The Argentina Reader

Ulrico Schmidl, Going wild, The Argentina Reader

Week 3

From colony to nation: the Enlightenment and its influence on race. The wars of Independence: impact on Indians and Blacks. Liberalism and citizenship: exclusions and inclusions, reactions and rebellions.

Peter Blanchard, "An institution defended: slavery and the English Invasions of Buenos Aires," Slavery and Abolition 35:2 (2014)

"The revolt of Tupac Amaru," in Hanke and Rausch, Latin American History

Recommended reading:

Johnson, Lyman "A Lack of Legitimate Obedience and Respect": Slaves and Their Masters in the Courts of Late Colonial Buenos Aires," Hispanic American Historical Review 87:4 (Nov. 2007)

Week 4

Building a new white nation: The neo-imperialist gaze: British travelers in Argentina. Post-colonial theory and the "other". Emeric Essex Vidal and his paintings.

Kristine L. Jones, Nineteenth century British travel accounts of Argentina, in Ethnohistory 33:2 (1986)

John and William Parish Robertson, Letters from South America, excerpts

Recommended reading:

James Mangan, "The early evolution of modern sport in Latin America," ed. James Mangan, Sport in Latin American Society (2002)

Week 5

Building a new white nation. Gauchos and Indians in emerging Argentina. The conquest of the desert. Racial politics in the 19th century

Oscar Chamosa, "Indigenous or criollo: The myth of white Argentina" (HAHR 88:1, 2008)

Domingo F. Sarmiento describes the gaucho, 1848 Charles Darwin meets the gaucho

Ceferino Namuncura, Letter to the President

Recommended reading:

Marcela Mendoza, "Western Toba Messianism and Resistance to Colonization 1915-1918," Ethnohistory 51:2 (Spring 2014)

Week 6

Building a new white nation: the disappearing Black population of Argentina. Popular culture, religion, associationism and resistance.

George Reid Andrews, A transfusion of new blood: Whitening, in Afro Latin America (2004)

Recommended reading:

Matthew Karusch, Blackness in Argentina: jazz, tango and race before Peron, Past and Present 216 (2012)

Week 7

Racial paradigms in the 19th century: the new "scientific" racism: Social Darwinism and Positivism. Gender and race through the eyes of science. Criminology and eugenics.

Aline Helg, Race in Argentina, in The idea of race in Latin America (1990)

Julia Rodriguez, Barbarism and the Civilizing Sciences, in Civilizing Argentina (2006)

Recommended reading:

Kristin Ruggiero, Sexual aberration, degeneration and psychiatry in 19th century Buenos Aires, in Argentina on the couch (ed. Mariano Plotkin)

Week 8

The Great Migration: immigrants arrive in the land of promise. Immigration theories. Push-pull factors. Rural immigration and colonias. The Jewish gauchos.

Judith Noemi Freidenberg, From Jewish gauchos to gaucho jews, in The invention of the Jewish Gaucho (University of Texas Press, 2009)

Recommended reading:

Williams, Glyn, 'Welsh Settlers and Native Americans in Patagonia' Journal of Latin American Studies, 11:1 1979(b), 41-66.

Week 9

The Great Migration: Urban immigration. Italians and Spaniards in Buenos Aires. Their institutions, practices and impact. Xenophobia and nationalism.

Jeane Delaney, "Making Sense of Modernity," Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 38, Issue 3 (July 1996).

Oreste Sola, Making it in America

Recommended reading:

Ranaan Rein, The cradle of tango and football: Villa Crespo and the essence of Buenos Aires, in Futbol, Jews and the making of Argentina (California, Stanford Press, 2015)

Week 10

Antisemitism and racial policies under Peronism: Jews and Nazis in the mid-twentieth century.

Falcoff, Mark. Peron's Nazi Ties, American Enterprise Institute (1998)

Uki Goni, The Real Odessa

Recommended reading:

Sandra McGee deutsch, The Argentine Right and the Jews, 1919-1933 (Journal of LAS 18:1, 1986)

Week 11

Authoritarianism and racial discrimination: The military, repression and the "subversive".

Marguerite Feitlowitz, "Life here is normal", in *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (NY, Oxford University Press, 1998)

Nunca mas website, excerpts (www.desaparecidos.org/eng)

Week 12

Race and class relations in the late 20th century: urbanization, race and poverty. Indigenous people in the 21 C.

Barbara Sutton, *Contesting Racism: Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights and Anti-Racist Policies in Argentina*, LAP, 35:6 (Nov. 2008)

Week 13

Indigenous activism: The racialization of poverty. Rural poverty in the 21st century.

Peter Wade, *Black and indigenous social movements*, in, *Race and Ethnicity*.

Amerindian Rights

Film: *Tierra Adentro, Ulises de la Orden* (to be confirmed)

Week 14

Case study: the Mapuches in the 21st century: political activism or opportunism? Roundtable: race and politics in contemporary Argentina.

Week 15

Challenges and conclusion. Final exam.

Bibliography

- Chamosa, Oscar Indigenous or criollo: The myth of white Argentina (HAHR 88:1, 2008)
- Chasteen, John Charles. Black kings, blackface carnival, in *Latin American Popular Culture* (2000)
- Delaney, Jeane. "Making Sense of Modernity," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 38, Issue 3 (July 1996).
- Feitlowitz, Marguerite. "Life here is normal", in *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (NY, Oxford University Press, 1998)
- Falcoff, Mark. *Peron's Nazi Ties*, American Enterprise Institute (1998)

- Freidenberg, Judith. Colonia Clara and the emergence of the Jewish gauchos, in *The invention of the Jewish Gaucho* (University of Texas Press, 2009)
- Helg, Aline. Race in Argentina, in *The idea of race in Latin America* (1990)
- Johnson, Lyman "A Lack of Legitimate Obedience and Respect": Slaves and Their Masters in the Courts of Late Colonial Buenos Aires," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 87:4 (Nov. 2007)
- Jones, Kristine L..Nineteenth century British travel accounts of Argentina, in *Ethnohistory*33:2 (1986)
- Mangan, James. "The early evolution of modern sport in Latin America," ed. James Mangan, *Sport in Latin American Society* (2002)
- Reid Andrews, George. *Afro Latin America* (Oxford UP: 2004)
- Rein, Ranaan. *The cradle of tango and football: Villa Crespo and the essence of Buenos Aires, in Futbol, Jews and the making of Argentina* (California, Stanford Press, 2015)
- Rein, Ranaan. *Futbol, Jews and the making of Argentina* (California, Stanford Press, 2015)
- Rodriguez, Julia. Barbarism and the Civilizing Sciences, in *Civilizing Argentina* (2006)
- Salvatore, Ricardo. "Criminology, prison reform and the Buenos Aires working class" (*Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 23:2, 1992)
- Shumway, Jeffrey. The purity of my blood: Changing attitudes towards interracial marriage, *The Americas* 58:2 (2001)
- Silverblatt Irene, Foreword and Matthew O'Hara and Andrew Fisher, Introduction, in Fisher and O'Hara (eds.), *Imperial Subjects: Race and Identity in Colonial Latin America* (Duke University Press, 2009)
- Slatta, Richard, *The Demise of the Gaucho and the Rise of Equestrian Sport in Argentina*, in *Journal of Sport History* 13:2 (Summer 1986)
- Barbara Sutton, *Contesting Racism: Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights and Anti-Racist Policies in Argentina*, *LAP*, 35:6 (Nov.2008)
- Wade, Peter. Black and indigenous social movements, in *Race and Ethnicity*.
- Williams, Glyn, 'Welsh Settlers and Native Americans in Patagonia' *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 11:1 1979(b), 41-66.

Primary sources

- Nouzellies and Montalbo (eds), *The Argentina Reader* (Duke UP, 2002)
- The deeds of Elal, *The Argentina Reader*
- Antonio Pigafetta, *Monsters of Patagonia*, *The Argentina Reader*
- Ulrico Schmidl, *Going wild* *The Argentina Reader*
- The revolt of Tupac Amaru, in Hanke and Rausch, *Latin American History*
- John and William Parish Robertson, *Letters from South America*,

- Domingo F. Sarmiento describes the gaucho, 1848, The Argentina Reader
- Charles Darwin meets the gaucho, The Argentina Reader
- Chief Ceferino Namuncura, Letter to the President, The Argentina Reader
- Oreste Sola, Making it in America, The Argentina Reader
- Simon Collier, The birth of the tango, The Argentina Reader
- Javier Auyero, We are all cursed The Argentina Reader