



Course Proposal
Territorial studies and rural development

School of Agriculture – University of Buenos Aires

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Objective

The aim of this course is to introduce the students into Rural Sociology and Territorial Studies, focusing on current debates on rurality, development and environmental conflicts in Latin America. They will visit agriculture areas and ecological reserves on the outskirts of Buenos Aires city and interact with horticulture farmers and state officers in charge of rural development policies. They will also learn about Argentine culture and history.

Duration

45 hours, in 4 weeks.

Contents

1. – Rural Sociology and Development

Rural processes in social theories. Debates on rurality in Latin America. Agrarian processes in Argentina: Agriculture role in the country development. Social agrarian structure and social actors, the case of Argentina. Development paradigms and policies.

Visit: Ministry of Agriculture.

Visit to Caminito – La Boca, San Telmo.

2. - Ecological and social roots of rural spaces in Argentina

Economic and agroecological regions. Historical processes of the use and appropriation of the landscapes. Development and sustainability.

Visit: Ecological Reserve Costanera Sur , Bicentenario Museum

3.- Territorial studies

Territorial approach: social actors, politics, economy, environment. Conflicts and negotiations. Implications in rural development policies in Argentina.

Visit: Green Belt

4. Final test

Students will write a report in the last week of the course which will be presented orally during the last class.

Visit: Palermo town, Buenos Aires.

Methodology

The course introduces theoretical concepts and their practical application. Some specific literature will be discussed during the classes in the School of Agriculture in order to identify and comprehend the most important concepts and arguments. It also includes case studies that highlight the ways in which these theories help to understand particular social aspects of Argentine rural territories.

Visits will illustrate these issues and students will be able to interact with farmers, decision makers and people in charge of ecological reserves. They will also enable students to experience Buenos Aires way of life and to learn about the history and culture of Argentina.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated in a concluding exam. They will write a report applying some theoretical key issues to the analysis of the information gathered in the visits. The concluding exam will consist of an oral presentation of these results.