



LT 360 ARGENTINE LITERATURE AND THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY
IES Abroad Buenos Aires

DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on four main topics related to different types of writing experiences that took place in modern Argentina. These topics reflect specific historical contexts and different cultural practices: “Tensions in Argentine culture: from a library of English books to the worship of courage”, “Ways of excluding and including the Other through literature: tango, immigration, and politics”, “Eva Perón: the talking corpse”, and “Language, sexuality, and politics”. This organization does not only allow to get acquainted with certain group of texts belonging to different genres (short story, novel, and poetry of the most important Argentine writers from the 20th century, plus 19th century author Domingo Faustino Sarmiento), but also to discuss issues like the construction of a national identity from literature’s point of view and through the quarrel over what is “authentic” and what is not. Our journey also makes a connection between literary discourse and other social discourses, namely: the political, the historical, and the cultural ones.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Spanish

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures, and group and class discussions of textual analysis and its context using fiction and other elements (photographs, illustrations, recordings, information about the author and its time, and the impact his work had on his time).
- Each class will feature terminological clarifications, the use of specific vocabulary, and same basics on syntax. Reading guides will be provided regularly by the teacher.
- There will be at least two course-related trips.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Participation, Reports, and Oral Presentations - 20%
- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Final Paper - 30%
- Written Works: reading guides, reports, etc. - 20%

Final Paper

A paper 8/10 pages long (single-spaced pages) or 15/20 (double space) based on the readings of the second half of the semester.

During the course, students will be expected to:

- Endure intensive reading activity
- Actively participate in discussions about narrative texts
- Develop reading hypothesis
- Write accurate reports and assignments in Spanish

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- This course seeks to promote students' awareness of the relation between texts and social and cultural processes in Argentina, in order to achieve a panoramic perception of Argentine culture.
- Texts selection includes short stories which express some of the features of Argentine storytelling studied. Also, the novel *El beso de la mujer araña* by Manuel Puig will be read and analyzed.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Global brilliance begins here.®

Institute for the International Education of Students
Africa | Asia Pacific | Europe | Latin America

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. Each instructor will record each student's attendance through Moodle. Any legitimate reason for not attending class or a field work activity (medical emergency, etc.) must be referred directly to the Academic office (not to the instructor) with proper documentation. Students who miss class due to medical reasons need to receive a certified doctor's note from a medical professional and turn this into the Academic Affairs office. Without that note, the absence cannot be excused. Instructors have authority to mark students as absent if they arrive 15 minutes or more after the course starting time.

- Courses taught one day per week allow a maximum of 1 absence.
- Courses taught two days per week allow a maximum of 2 absences.
- Courses taught three and four days per week allow a maximum of 3 absences.

Every unexcused absence after the maximum allowance will lower half a point of the student's final grade (for instance, from "A" to "A-", from "A-" to "B+" and so on). It is the students' responsibility to keep up to date on their absence total.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Unit 1 Week 1	Tensions in Argentine culture: from a library of English books to the worship of courage Introduction. Lecture: The Pampa in 19th century Argentine paintings.	• Borges, Jorge Luis. "El cautivo". In: El Hacedor, Buenos Aires: Emecé, 1960.
Week 2	The Pampa, the gauchos, and the construction of a national identity. Part I.	• Sarmiento, Domingo Faustino. Facundo o civilización y barbarie. Buenos Aires, 1845 (selection). • Viñas, David. « Sarmiento: Indios, autobiografía y progreso ». In : Indios, Ejército y Frontera. Santiago Arcos Editor, Buenos Aires, 2003. • Reading report on the bibliography about Facundo.
Week 3	The Pampa, the gauchos, and the construction of a national identity. Part II.	• Borges, Jorge Luis. "El sur". In: Ficciones. Buenos Aires: Emecé, 1944. • Sarlo, Beatriz. "El pliegue". In: Borges, un escritor en las orillas. Buenos Aires: Ariel, 1995.
Unit 2 Week 4	Ways of excluding and including the Other through literature: tango, immigration, and politics	• Fontanarrosa, Roberto. "Una historia de tango". In: Nada del otro mundo y otros cuentos. Buenos Aires: Ediciones de la Flor, 1987. • Comparative analysis of Borges' and Fontanarrosa's tales.

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 5	The Other today	- Sarlo, Beatriz. Instantáneas. Medios, ciudad y costumbres de fin de siglo. Buenos Aires: Ariel, 2000. - Buenos Aires Tour. Take the bus tour offered (for free) by the city's municipality. Your goal is observe and report on what the tour shows to tourists, and the reaction of these tourists to the show. You have to come up with an oral presentation through a photo record and an essay (either an "aguafuerte" or just the description of each photo).
Week 6	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 7	Oral presentation about course-related trip Number 1	Martínez Estrada, Ezequiel. "La inundación". In: Cuentos completos, Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 1975. Autobiographical letter to Victoria Ocampo: http://www.ensayistas.org/filosofos/argentina/eme/eme6.htm
Week 8	Debate: Racism and Peronism in Argentina.	- Rozenmacher, Germán. "Cabecita negra". In: Cabecita negra. Buenos Aires: CEAL, 1967. - Fogwill, Rodolfo. "Muchacha Punk". In: Muchacha Punk. Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1992
Unit 3 Week 9	Eva Perón: the talking corpse.	- Eloy Martínez. Tomás. Santa Evita. Buenos Aires: Planeta, 1995. (selections) - Walsh, Rodolfo. "Esa mujer". In: La máquina del bien y del mal. Buenos Aires: Clarín Aguilar, 1992. Borges, Jorge Luis. "El simulacro". In: El Hacedor. Buenos Aires: Emecé, 1960. - Movie: Eva, una tumba sin paz (Tristán Bauer, 1997).
Week 10	Course-related trip: Eva Perón and the city of Buenos Aires.	- Viñas, David. "La señora muerta". In: Perón vuelve. Cuentos sobre peronismo. Buenos Aires: Norma, 2000. - Individual presentation with photographic record and an essay. - Topics for take-home final exam will be delivered during week 13.

Week	Content	Assignments
Unit 4 11	Language, sexuality, and politics.	Puig, Manuel. El beso de la mujer araña. Buenos Aires: Seix Barral, 1976. Guest lecturer: Daniel Molina.
Week 12		- VV.AA. Antología de poemas de autores argentinos preparada especialmente para el programa. VV. AA. Tres décadas de poesía argentina. Buenos Aires: Libros del Rojas, 2006. - Interview with Argentine poets. - Submission of the final paper.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Balderston, Daniel. Borges: realidades y simulacros. Buenos Aires: Biblos, 2000.
- Barrenechea, Ana María. La expresión de la irrealidad en la obra de Borges. Buenos Aires, CEAL, 1984.
- Cortázar, Julio. "Del cuento breve y sus alrededores", Último round [1969], Tomo I. México: Siglo XXI, 1974.
- Jitrik, Noé. Horacio Quiroga, una obra de experiencia y riesgo. Buenos Aires: Ediciones Culturales Argentinas, 1959.
- Kraniauskas, John. "Rodolfo Walsh y Eva Perón: „Esa mujer“ ". In: Nuevo Texto Crítico, núm. 12/13, año VI, julio 1993-junio 1994.
- Link, Daniel. "Rodolfo Walsh y la crisis de la literatura". In: Cómo se lee y otras intervenciones críticas. Buenos Aires: Norma, 2003.
- Idem. Leyenda. Literatura argentina: cuatro cortes. Buenos Aires: Entropía, 2006. Mancini, Adriana. Silvina Ocampo. Escalas de pasión. Buenos Aires: Norma, 2003.
- Molloy, Sylvia. Las letras de Borges y otros ensayos. Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 1999.
- Orgambide, Pedro. Horacio Quiroga. Una historia de vida. Buenos Aires: Planeta, 1994.
- Panesi, Jorge. "Borges nacionalista". In: Críticas. Buenos Aires: Norma, 2000.
- Pezzoni, Enrique. "Silvina Ocampo: orden fantástico, orden social". In: El texto y sus voces. Buenos Aires: Sudamericana, 1986.
- Piglia, Ricardo. Crítica y ficción. Buenos Aires: Seix Barral, 2000.
- Rama, Ángel. "Los procesos de transculturación en la narrativa latinoamericana" [1974]. In: La novela en América Latina. Panoramas 1920-1980, Xalapa, México: Universidad Veracruzana, Fundación Ángel Rama, 1986.
- Rodríguez Monegal, Emir. "Prólogo". In: Horacio Quiroga. Cuentos. Caracas: Biblioteca Ayacucho, número 88.
- Sarlo, Beatriz. Borges, un escritor en las orillas. Buenos Aires: Ariel, 1995.
- Sarlo, Beatriz. "El Campo Intelectual: un espacio doblemente fracturado". In: Saúl Sosnowski (comp.), Represión y reconstrucción de una cultura: el caso argentino. Buenos Aires: Eudeba, 1988, pp. 96-108.
- Soria, Claudia. Los cuerpos de Eva. Buenos Aires: Beatriz Viterbo, 2005. Speranza, Graciela. Primera persona. Buenos Aires: Norma, 1995.
- Todorov, Tzvetan. Introducción a la literatura fantástica. Buenos Aires: Editorial Tiempo Contemporáneo, 1972.
- Viñas, David. Literatura argentina y realidad política. Buenos Aires: CEAL, 1983. VV. AA. Tres décadas de poesía argentina. Buenos Aires: Libros del Rojas, 2006.