Course Description:

This course provides a survey of the history of race in Argentina from pre-conquest 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%

Week 1 Introduction: what is race? Race, ethnicity and identity in Latin America.

**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.


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.


“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:


**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:

**Week 6** Building a new white nation: the disappearing Black population of Argentina. Popular culture, religion, associationism and resistance.


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.

**Required readings:**
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)


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

Recommended reading:


Oreste Sola, Making it in America

Recommended reading:


**Week 10** Antisemitism and racial policies under Peronism: Jews and Nazis in the mid-twentieth century.


Uki Goni, The Real Odessa


**Week 11** Authoritarianism and racial discrimination: The military, repression and the “subversive”.


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.


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

Amerindian Rights

Film: Mbya: Tierra en rojo. Philip Cox (to be confirmed)

Readings to be assigned

Week 15 Challenges and conclusion. Final exam.

Note: "Students holding a tourist visa will NOT be allowed to take final exams, they have to go to the 17 Floor to clear the hold"

Bibliography

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


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 (Univeristy 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)


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


**Primary sources:**

Nouzellies and Montalbo (eds), *The Argentina Reader* (Duke UP, 2002)

The deeds of Elal, *The Argentina Reader*

Antonio Pigafetetta, 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*