This course will explore artistic movements that have challenged the very notion of culture in Argentina. First, it will study the construction of national identity through the dilemma between civilization or barbarism as formulated in 19th century canonic texts (Hernández, Echeverría, Alberdi, and Sarmiento). The literary avant garde of the 1920s (Girondo, Storni, Borges, Arlt) will be examined in relation not only to the city of Buenos Aires, but also to psychoanalysis and tango. It will look at the Peronist movement and analyze the myths of Eva Perón and Che Guevara in national discourse, also study the Argentine dictatorship and look into two infamous wars: the “Dirty war,” a term used to describe the forced disappearance of political opponents during the last military dictatorship and the “clean war” in the Southern Atlantic conflict (1982). Finally, through the figure of the scavenger, the course will focus on the 2001 crisis and analyze the implications for the notion of “the people”. To conclude, the course will briefly consider feminist literature today.