(PEAL 261) Argentine Popular Culture Argentina
Professor and Lícd. María Úrsula Castro Alonso
ARGENTINE and LATINAMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

Course Syllabus

Course Information
Contact hours: 60
Tues. & Thurs. 16:00-17:30
First semester 2018

Contact Information
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Course Description
The objective of the course is for students to study Argentine popular culture through the material, spiritual and ideological manifestations that “jump out at” the traveler, as these manifestations represent the Argentines and identify them as such. The city (the center and its margins), the food, the music, football and myths are manifestations created and/or consumed preferably by the popular classes that we study. In addition to supplementing the immersion in Argentine culture, the course also tries to be a transition with the 300-level courses, hence the importance that is given to the student’s brief and continuous participation, both written and oral, in the class. Based on television, literary and culinary fragments, photography and film, videos and music, students will discuss the class topics in order to improve their Spanish comprehension and production (written and oral). During classes, grammatical corrections will be made, while students will be assisted with support exercises to improve their Spanish.

Course Requirements

Attendance and punctuality
Students must meet the requirement of 75% attendance in order to maintain good standing. The attendance monitoring system is electronic. The teacher also monitors attendance, as it is part of the final grade (see Grading policy). Tardiness (arriving more than ten minutes late) or leaving before the end of the class, will be considered half an absence. The only way to justify an absence is to present a medical certificate at the next class following the absence. In the case of an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to contact their peers or their teacher to get the assignment and complete those tasks assigned for the next class. An absence does not justify not completing an assignment.
Participation and work in class
The student must participate actively in class and make oral presentations; students must attend their classmates’ presentations. During the semester, the student will have tasks and assignments for each class, which form part of the final grade. In addition, each student will make 6 oral presentations and deliver 6 short papers. The delay in the delivery of assignments negatively affects the grade; assignments will not be accepted more than two days after the initial due date for the assignment.

The brief papers must be double spaced, be accurate and well organized, and have a creative title.

Plagiarism
Presenting words, ideas or any information as if they were one’s own is plagiarism and constitutes an intellectual theft. The student who commits an act of plagiarism will not receive credit for the entire course.

Oral presentations
Oral presentations should be made with the student's own words, they cannot be read, although they may be supported by notes (the teacher will evaluate in each case the relevance of the "notes").

Grading Policy

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short written work, reports and assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
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<td>Oral presentations</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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For a better understanding of the system of grade equivalency and transfer to the European or North American systems, consult the comparative table in the Orientation kit (p.9).

1. **Unit 1: The Postal City.**
2. **The culture in its gastronomy** influences of dishes, topics and trends, finding a typical recipe, recreating it. Beyond the empanada and choripán, Picada, guisos (stews).
3. **Popular music** Rock and cumbia Soda Stereo, Charly, Spinetta, Divididos – Cumbia villera/Agapornis- Gilda (Film/Music)
4. **Soccer** Passion, tradition, folklore, violence and corruption / The old and the new.
6. Argentine myths Evita, Gilda, Maradona, Messi, Pope Francis.

Academic Calendar

Week 1
Presentation of the course. What is popular culture?
Being Argentinian. Preconceptions and clichés.
Song The Argentine al Palo.
Commercial of the Government of the city of Buenos Aires. #Why not observe 3 Gestures, 3 Characteristics of the style of Argentines and 3 Lunfardo (slang) words they use?

Week 2
“The Imagined City”, in La ciudad vista, de Beatriz Sarlo. Critical analysis of the tours offered by the Government of the city of Buenos Aires.
Antología
“Transformaciones sociales y nuevas conductas espaciales”, in Espacios públicos y construcción social.
Essay 1
#Why don't you take a picture that shows a situation in the public space of Buenos Aires?

Week 3
The city in photos. The Piedrabuena neighborhood, Gian Paolo Minelli.
The city in the poetry of Borges.
Oral presentation1
#Why don't you take the Liniers tour run by the city government?
Week 4  The culture in its gastronomy influences of dishes, topics and trends.
Typical meals. Argentine customs.
The Roast. Fragment by Juan José Sáer.
Videos “Locos x el asado”.
Essay 2
# Why don’t you try a locro?

Week 5  Dulce de leche. Chocotorta (chocolate cake) and alfajores (caramel cookies).
History of the Havanna alfajores.
Picada
Culinary Survey.
Reviews.
Oral presentation 2.
# Why not try the mini alfajor Fantoche?

Week 6  Popular music. National Rock. Cumbia (from cumbia villera to Agapornis)
Video from Canal Encuentro: “Quizás porque: Generación beat” (fragments)
Video from Canal Encuentro: “Quizás porque: Comienza el rock” (fragments)
Analysis of songs by Spinetta.
Essay 3
# Why don’t you listen to the band Perota Chingó?

Week 7  Argentine cumbia. From the cumbia villera to Agapornis (passing through Gilda)
Cumbia villera. Stereotype and social identity, Stereotypes and Clichés, Amossy y Herschberg Pierrot.
Cumbia villera and the end of working class culture in Argentina in the 1990s, Revista Transcultural de Música Eloísa Martín Fragment of the film Gilda
Oral presentation 3.
# Why don’t you watch the TV show “Pasión de Sábado”?
Week 8  Review
Midterm - Thursday

Week 9  Soccer  Passion, tradition, folklore, violence and corruption / The old and the new. The approaching change.
Video: Why does football make us so crazy?
Historical rivalries. Brief history of the most popular teams.
The origin of football nicknames..
#Why don't you go to a café and watch a football game and see what happens…?

Week 10  Story “La observación de los pájaros”, Fontanarrosa.
Football as a ritual, anthropological analysis.
Economic interests in football. The case of Liverpool as a current trend of Argentine football.
Essay 4
Oral presentation 4.
#Why don't you talk to an Argentine about the national team and the World Cup in Russia?

Week 11  The other side of the city: villas. Political passion and social commitment. Social activism.
History of the slums. Eradication attempts. Evolution. #Why don't you look for the difference between asentamiento and villa?

Week 12  Current status of Villa 31 and 31 Bis.
Why don’t you look for the latest statements in the media of a “cura villero”?

Week 13  Argentine myths.
Conformation of a myth.
Maradona, Messi, Pope Francis
Video “El gen argentino”
#Why not find out what other contemporary character or person has the category of “myth”?
Week 14  Oral presentation
Essay 6
Review

Week 15  Final presentations
Final presentations and grade distribution.

Students with a tourist visa will NOT be able to take final exams. You must regularize your immigration status on the 17th floor before you take exams.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Package prepared by Prof. María Úrsula Castro Alonso.