

(PALAS 310) Argentine Economy

Luis Ignacio Argüero, PhD.

Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies

Universidad de Belgrano

Course Syllabus 2015 1

Course Information

T Th 5:30-7:00 PM

Instruction in English

Contact Information

liarguero@gmail.com

Course Description

Once one of the richest and fastest growing economies in the world, Argentina is now entrenched in the rankings of the less developed countries. Nevertheless, in the last decade it has grown at a fast pace, one that was hard to predict in the days of the 2001-2002 crisis. That a country that was viewed as a pariah, effectively shut out of the international financial markets, could recover from its worst crisis, is the topic of recent academic and political discussions. The course will provide a truly comprehensive perspective that will enable the students to analyze and understand the process experienced by the Argentine economy from the late 19th Century until the present days, focusing on the processes that led to the economic crisis at the turn of this century and the measures implemented to overcome it. In the current world crisis scenario, Argentina can thus serve as a case study of sorts.

Course Requirements

Class attendance is required of all students at UB. A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with the attendance policy. Class participation is very important; there will be several class discussions, which will rely heavily on student participation. Students are expected to conduct research for the final paper and consult the digital library (EBSCO) for that purpose. UB holds to the view that plagiarism constitutes intellectual theft and is a serious breach of acceptable conduct. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester. There will be no make ups for classes falling on public holidays.

*For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading check online <http://www.ub.edu.ar/studies-abroad/palas.php>

Grading Policy

Participation	10 %
Paper presentation (oral & written)	30 %
Midterm	25 %
Final Exam	35 %

Required Textbooks and Materials

Luis Argüero, ed. *Course Reader*

Academic Calendar

Week 1

Tuesday March 10

Introduction. Presentation of the course. Objectives. Regions of Argentina. History, autonomy and the federal system. Income and employment disparities.

Thursday March 12

Brief description of Argentine economic performance in the long run, trends, cycles and current situation. Its socioeconomic performance compared to other Latin American countries.

Week 2

Tuesday March 17

Brief explanation of development economics' fundamentals. Capital accumulation, growth and structural transformation.

Thursday March 19

Economic growth vs. Economic development. The savings – investment balance . Social capital. Institutions.

Week 3

Tuesday March 24: National holiday

Thursday March 26

The economy before independence. The sources of growth of the Argentine economy 1870-1914. Changes in Land, Labor & Capital accumulation.

Week 4

Tuesday March 31

The early interwar period. The downturn in the terms of trade. Causes of the decrease in the rate of capital accumulation.

Thursday April 2: National holiday

Week 5

Tuesday April 7

Argentina from 1930 to 1946. Changes in economic policy: import substitution industrialization. Democracy, coup d'état and internal migration. The new world's economic scenario and its impact on Argentina.

Thursday April 9

Argentina from 1946 to 1955. The Peronist decade. Populism and government intervention. Different approaches to economic policy: 1946-1952 , 1952-1955. Shift from an outward orientation to an inward orientation. Success and failure of the Peronist economic policy.

Week 6

Tuesday April 14

Political instability and economic failures. The armed forces and Marxism in Latin America: The spread of the Cuban revolution. The School of the Americas and involvement of the USA in Latin American politics.

Thursday April 16

Argentina from Peron to the early 80's. Lack of a sustained growth. Oil shocks and debt crisis. Financial speculation, destruction of the local industry and surge of poverty and unemployment.

Week 7

Tuesday April 21

80's: political tensions. Peronismo without Perón. Union strikes and de-industrialization. Hyperinflation. Economic and social costs of the Argentine development strategies. LatAm cooperation: the road to Mercosur.

Thursday April 23

Argentina in the 90's. Menem's economic policy. The Convertibility Plan. Fiscal policies. Privatization of public firms. The dependence of foreign capital flows. The Washington Consensus.

Week 8

Tuesday April 28

Economic performance 1992-1995 . The impact of the Mexican crisis. The impact of the Brazilian devaluation. Economic performance and external shocks. Evaluation of structural reforms. Employment behavior in the 90's.

Thursday April 30

The path to Argentine crisis (1999 to 2001). Review for the midterm exam. The schedule for oral presentations will be assigned.

Week 9

Tuesday May 5

Midterm exam

Thursday May 7

New government and social unrest. The Vice President's resignation. Migration.

Week 10

Tuesday May 12

Debt, tax increases and the IMF. Peso's rigidity and lack of a "competitive currency". "Corralón" and "corralito". Five presidents in ten days.

Thursday May 14

Local currencies and bartering system. Destruction of the financial system. Government finances. Central government-Provinces relationships. Debt default and devaluation. **Consultations about written paper.**

Week 11

Tuesday May 19

Nominal and real salary reduction. Social unrest, subsidies and "Plan trabajar". The Kirchner era (2003-). The foundations of the Argentine recovery. Agroindustrial exports as the key of Argentina turnaround. Brazil, emerging markets and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Thursday May 21

Renegotiation of the external debt. What does a country own? Free Trade Agreements in Argentina and South America. Relations with IMF, World Bank, Interamerican Development Bank and the Paris Club.

Week 12

Tuesday May 26

Oral presentations (25' each)

Thursday May 28

Oral presentations (25' each)

Week 13

Tuesday June 2

Change of government and continuity. The economic crisis of 2008 and its impact on Argentina. The external and fiscal situation in Cristina Kirchner government. Evolution of the twin surpluses.

Thursday June 4

Argentinean economy in perspective: Production-exports-imports. From untrustworthy to case study: miracle, "tailwind" or sound policy? Inflation. The Argentine dilemma: capital flight vs. FDI. The "Dollar culture" and restrictions.

Week 14

Tuesday June 9

Vaca Muerta and Argentina's shale oil and gas sector.

Thursday June 11

Open discussion: Argentine economy in the 21st Century: Opportunities, threats and projections. Review for Final Exam

Week 15

"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"

Tuesday June 9: Final Exam

Thursday June 11

Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).

Bibliography

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Wylde, C. (2011), "State, Society and markets in Argentina: The political economy of neo-desarrollismo under Néstor Kirchner, 2003-2007", *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 436-452.